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VOLUME I

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NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

9

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February 23, 1999

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Inupiat Heritage Center
Barrow/Browerville, Alaska

14

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17 Board Members Present:

18

19 Fenton O. Rexford, Chairman

20 Ben A. Hopson, Vice-Chairman

21 Harry K. Brower, Jr., Secretary

22 Gordon C. Upicksoun

23 Paul Bodfish, Sr.

24 Terry L. Tagarook

25 Leonard A. Tukle

26 Michael Patkotak

27 Charles Hopson, Alternate

28 Gordon Brower, Sr., Alternate

29

30 Barbara Armstrong, Coordinator

P R O C E E D I N G S

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CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Good morning, everyone,
I'll call the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory
Council meeting to order. I want to welcome everybody. I
want to especially welcome Leonard. I'm glad that we're all
present here and accounted for, except Ray Koonook, will be
seated by Charlie Hopson this morning. And I want to thank
Gordon for standing by, he's one of our alternates. So we
have a quorum.

So, Harry, could you have them do a roll call.

MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman. Fenton

Rexford.

CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Here.

MR. H. BROWER: Michael Patkotak.

(No audible response)

MR. H. BROWER: Harry Brower, I'm here.

Terry Tagarook.

MR. TAGAROOK: Here.

MR. H. BROWER: Gordon Upicksoun.

MR. UPICKSOUN: Here.

MR. H. BROWER: Ben Hopson.

MR. B. HOPSON: Here.

MR. H. BROWER: Paul Bodfish.

MR. BODFISH: Here.

MR. H. BROWER: Ray Koonook.

(No audible response)

CHAIRMAN REXFORD: In place of Ray, it'll be
Charlie Hopson.

MR. H. BROWER: Charlie Hopson.

MR. C. HOPSON: Here.

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1 MR. H. BROWER: Okay. Leonard Tukle.

2
3 MR. TUKLE: Here.

4
5 MR. H. BROWER: Also present is Gordon
6 Brower.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Harry. Okay,
9 we'll go on to item number 3, welcome and introduction of
10 each other. I want to, again, welcome Larry Tukle from
11 Nuiqsut, I'm glad that you were able to make it. So we'll
12 start with the recorder and work our way around the table.

13
14 MR. HAYNES: Hi, I'm Dave Haynes, I'm the
15 court reporter.

16
17 MR. TUKLE: Hello, I'm Leonard Tukle from
18 Nuiqsut.

19
20 MR. UPICKSOUN: I'm Gordon Upicksoun from
21 Point Lay.

22
23 MR. B. HOPSON: Ben Hopson, Jr. from
24 Anaktuvuk, formerly. I just moved up here to Barrow two
25 weeks ago.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Good morning, I'm Fenton
28 from Kaktovik.

29
30 MR. H. BROWER: Good morning, Harry Brower
31 from Barrow.

32
33 MR. TAGAROOK: Good morning, Terry Tagarook
34 from Wainwright.

35
36 MR. C. HOPSON: Charlie Hopson from Barrow.

37
38 MR. G. BROWER: Gordon Brower from Barrow.

39
40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm Helen Armstrong from
41 Anchorage, from the Subsistence Office at Fish and Wildlife
42 Service and I'm the anthropologist on the team that serves
43 this Council.

44
45 MS. DEWHURST: I'm Donna Dewhurst, I'm on the
46 same team with Helen, I'm the biologist on the team.

47
48 MR. KNAUER: I'm Bill Knauer, Fish and
49 Wildlife Subsistence and I'm the policy regulations
50 specialist for the Subsistence Management Program.

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1 MR. GARDNER: I'm Craig Gardner, Park Fish
2 and Game (indiscernible - away from microphone)

3
4 MS. HILDEBRAND: Good morning, I'm Ida
5 Hildebrand, BIA Federal Staff Committee member.

6
7 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm Sandy Rabinowitch from
8 the Park Service, Federal Board Staff Committee, just like
9 Ida.

10
11 MR. ULVI: Good morning, Steve Ulvi with
12 Gates of the Arctic National Park.

13
14 MS. MORKILL I'm Anne Morkill with the Arctic
15 National Wildlife.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, everyone.
18 And we haven't seen Bill up here for a while either, so I
19 want to say hello to Bill.

20
21 MR. KNAUER: Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: And again, thanks everyone
24 for coming to our North Slope Subsistence Advisory Council
25 meeting.

26
27 With that I want to review -- want to go over with
28 you the agenda and the adoption. One of the changes are
29 number 7, under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
30 Subsistence program. We have under B, Scott Schliebe will
31 not be here so we'll cross that MMPA polar bear by Scott
32 Schliebe off. And in place of that we have an answer to most
33 of the polar bear questions we had at our last meeting in
34 November.

35
36 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

39
40 MR. UPICKSOUN: Will somebody be coming in
41 for Scott Schliebe?

42
43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, there'll be an
44 answer sheet or an answer memo to most of the polar bear
45 questions from Charlie Johnson.....

46
47 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay, thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:who's the Chairman of
50 the Alaska Nanuq Commission.

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1 MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes, thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: And there will be
4 correspondence on the answers to the questions from the last
5 meeting by memo.

6

7 BLM will be a little bit late, they're off to a
8 meeting right now. Dave has got a new boss, he's taking
9 around town this morning, so he'll be back about 11:00 or
10 sometime after 11:00, so we may move up Alaska Department of
11 Fish and Game, ENF, so we'll play this kind of flex -- play
12 it by ear this morning. I think we'll have us just approve
13 the agenda with some changes in there that needs to be on the
14 agency reports.

15

16 MR. H. BROWER: So moved, Mr. Chairman.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Moved by Harry to approve
19 the agenda.

20

21 MR. C. HOPSON: Second.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Seconded by Charlie.

24

25 MR. UPICKSOUN: Call for the question.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Question is called. All
28 in favor of approving the agenda say aye.

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Those opposed same sign.

33

34 (No opposing responses)

35

36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. There's some forms
37 out in front for any one who wants to testify. There's some
38 forms in the front part of the entrance there. We'll be
39 going over a couple of proposals that affects the North
40 Slope, so anyone out there that wants to testify has those
41 forms and give it to Barbara. The floor is now open for
42 public comments on the Federal Subsistence Management
43 Program. This opportunity will continue throughout the
44 meeting the next two day. Usually at this time it is open
45 anyone.

46

47 None?

48

49 MR. C. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Charlie.

2

3 MR. C. HOPSON: How about number 5, did
4 you.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Oh, I'm sorry. Thank you,
7 Charlie. Moving ahead of myself here. Thank you. Review and
8 adoption of the minutes, September 9 and 10. That's Tab R.
9 Thank you, Charlie.

10

11 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, I move we adopt
12 the minutes of September 9 and 10.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Gordon. Motion
15 to adopt the minutes.

16

17 MR. H. BROWER: Second the motion.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Seconded by Harry.
20 Discussion, corrections or comments on the minutes? Just
21 take a minute to having reviewed them. Anyone?

22

23 MR. UPICKSOUN: I have a comment.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

26

27 MR. UPICKSOUN: I hope whoever read this, the
28 polar bear issue as stated because that was a very
29 contentious issue last meeting, the concerns regarding polar
30 bears.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, thank you,
33 Mr. Upicksoun. As stated at our meeting last fall, we were
34 going to look for some answers or help from the North Slope
35 Borough Fish and Game or the Marine Mammal office in
36 Anchorage. That's why we had Scott Schliebe on there and he
37 couldn't make it, so Charlie Johnson was aware of our
38 concerns and he has written a letter or a memo to us or to
39 the residents of the North Slope for clarification, so we'll
40 bring that up later today.

41

42 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay, thank you.

43

44 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chairman.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Terry.

47

48 MR. TAGAROOK: I'd like to ask Ben what's
49 happening with trapping? Is it okay (indiscernible)

50

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1 MR. B. HOPSON: Where? Which one?

2

3 MR. TAGAROOK: You know, the trap.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: The initiative.

6

7 MR. B. HOPSON: Oh, the ballot initiative?

8

9 MR. TAGAROOK: Yeah. Can you give us an
10 update on the initiative on the traps?

11

12 MR. B. HOPSON: Yeah, at the general election
13 in November of '98 we were landslide winners. So snaring is
14 still allowed and you can wear you ruff, depending what you
15 want.

16

17 MR. TAGAROOK: All right. That's good to
18 hear.

19

20 MR. B. HOPSON: But I've got some other info,
21 I don't know if I should lay it out right now or do it at a
22 later point.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: We're going over the
25 minutes, so we'll provide an opportunity for you to do that.

26

27 MR. B. HOPSON: Okay, yeah.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other comments on the
30 minutes from either the affected State or Federal agency?

31

32 Good morning, Geoff. For the record, Geoff Carroll
33 is here.

34

35 MR. CARROLL: Yes, good morning, Fenton,
36 welcome to the SRC building.

37

38 MR. C. HOPSON: Question is called for.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Question is called for.
41 The main motion is to adopt the minutes of September 9 and
42 10. All in favor say aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Those opposed same sign.

47

48 (No opposing responses)

49

50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Charlie. We're

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1 down to item number 6 then. We're trying to move ahead too
2 fast this morning. Again, the floor is open to public
3 comments on the Federal Subsistence Management Program from
4 any of the audience. Under 6A we'll have an opportunity to
5 hear from the village, but at this time it's open to the
6 public.

7

8 All right. Hearing none, can we move on to 6A,
9 village concerns and reports. Any concerns from the
10 villages. Maybe we'll start off with Charlie and work our
11 way to the right. Any concerns from Barrow, Charlie or
12 Harry?

13

14 MR. C. HOPSON: I have no concerns, but for
15 everybody's information a couple of wolf and wolverine
16 hunters just came back, and for information only, the rabbits
17 are still moving up north, they are now around the Valley of
18 the Willows, they're bringing a lot of wolverine, so just for
19 your information that we might have a lot of rabbits next
20 year. But they're moving in every year, you know, they're
21 much closer this year. But just for your information.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Charlie.

24

25 MR. C. HOPSON: I have no other concerns.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you.

28

29 MR. UPICKSOUN: That's interesting, because
30 last year we heard.....

31

32 MR. C. HOPSON: I mentioned that last year
33 they were further up the fish -- they're right around the
34 Valley of the Willows area, they're moving this way.

35

36 MR. UPICKSOUN: That's interesting.

37

38 MR. C. HOPSON: Uh-huh.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Charlie. Any
41 questions for Mr. Hopson?

42

43 MR. UPICKSOUN: We have Geoff Carroll here.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, Geoff was recognized
46 earlier. Glad that you could be standing among us here,
47 Geoff.

48

49 MR. CARROLL: Thank you. Good to see you.
50 Welcome to the SRC Building.

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Terry.

2

3 MR. TAGAROOK: Our hunters have been going up
4 to Utokok and Kaolak and they've been catching some
5 wolverines up there and everybody else if fishing or working.
6 Fishing form smelts.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Anything else?

9

10 MR. TAGAROOK: That's it.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you. Harry,
13 any concerns from Browerville? We heard from Barrow side.

14

15 MR. H. BROWER: No, I don't have any concerns
16 or I haven't heard of any concerns from hunters here from
17 hunters here in Barrow, it's been pretty good hunting
18 throughout the winter here. Caribou are available. There's
19 been some, like Charlie said, wolverine and wolf hunting
20 southeast of us. It's been really good hunting over the
21 winter.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Harry. Yeah,
24 the same for Kaktovik, it's been a good change for us.
25 Catching caribou, musk-ox are now being harvested, more
26 daylight and they're near town. People are going up mountain
27 catching fresh fish, Dolly Varden, Arctic char, so 10 more
28 weekends before we can't snowmachine over there.

29

30 All right. Nothing much else, good winter.

31

32 MR. B. HOPSON: From Anaktuvuk, I think
33 everything has been going well. We've had lot of caribou all
34 winter, so hunting is going well up there.

35

36 I just had one other concern. You know, we had that
37 general election in November '98, over that ballot measure
38 nine. And then our coalition had a concern had we lost at
39 the election, you know, how the Feds protect us in Federal
40 public lands over subsistence snaring and trapping, would we
41 had lost that right, you know, if we had lost in that
42 election? Because.....

43

44 MS. DEWHURST: I think I can answer.....

45

46 MR. B. HOPSON:you know, on our
47 information network loop we've heard animal rights are going
48 to be coming again at us in the year 2000 to eliminate some
49 form of trapping along with bear baiting also.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Ben.

2 Ms. Dewhurst.

3

4 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, we talked to the Federal
5 Solicitor about that and we we're just playing scenarios on
6 what if.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Uh-huh.

9

10 MS. DEWHURST: And you would have been able
11 to still trap on Federal land. And the question was, well,
12 how could you keep the furs? Because they were saying if you
13 took the fur off Federal land then it would be illegal. That
14 was what the State was saying. And what the Solicitor was
15 saying, we'd probably have to initiate some sort of a Federal
16 tag where you would have a -- you know, being a Federal
17 subsistence hunter you would have some special tag you could
18 put on the fur and as long as that tag was on the fur it was
19 legal. So that's -- there are ways around it, so if this
20 does happen down in the future it doesn't mean you're going
21 to lose your right to trap. We can get around those problems
22 if that happens.

23

24 MR. B. HOPSON: But would we still be able to
25 get around the Federal Lacy Act then also, if someone.....

26

27 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, it wouldn't be a Lacy
28 Act issue, because you would have that Federal tag on the
29 fur, so it would be a legal fur. The Lacy Act thing is if
30 you take something that's illegally gotten and then transport
31 it across state lines, then that's where Lacy Act comes in.
32 So as long as it's a legal fur, that it was taken on Federal
33 land, you have the tag on it, it's a legal fur, so you don't
34 have any violation there.

35

36 But we can -- you know, it's something that the
37 Solicitor had said that, if and when the comes to pass, we'll
38 deal with it and we can work it out. He said it's not an
39 impasse, it's something that we can certainly deal with. And
40 it's going to be a little bit more effort because we'd have
41 to initiate -- we don't really have Federal tagging program
42 right now, but he said if we had to, we could make on, so
43 that was the answer I got at the time.

44

45 So I wouldn't worry about it, I guess, is the bottom
46 line, it shouldn't affect Federal subsistence hunters, even
47 if it would pass.

48

49 MR. B. HOPSON: Okay. That's about all.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Ben.
2 Gordon.

3
4 MR. UPICKSOUN: We had a good fall fishing
5 this fall, a lot of caribou. They've been getting some
6 wolves and wolverines the past couple weeks, three weeks.
7 And in December we noticed some eider ducks flying around
8 town. In fact, I was walking to work, I found one on the
9 road, it had run into the power line, but that's the latest
10 we've ever seen eider ducks in that area. That was just
11 before Christmas. That was odd.

12
13 Other than that, everything is fine, hunting-wise at
14 Point Lay.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Gordon.

17
18 MR. C. HOPSON: Gordon, there were eider
19 ducks flying around Point Hope two weeks ago.

20
21 MR. UPICKSOUN: I was out (indiscernible)
22 flocks of them flying. I didn't see the flocks, but about
23 the same time that I ran across that dead eider duck that had
24 ran into the power line, they had seen a lot of ducks. You
25 could hear them commenting on the CBs. That was just before
26 Christmas, that was very odd so late in the season.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Paul Bodfish from Atqasuk.

29
30 MR. BODFISH: Yeah, hunting been put
31 (indiscernible) all winter, starting fall fishing, caribou,
32 wolves, wolverine, they've been all around Atqasuk, not too
33 far, so everybody has been doing pretty good up there.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Paul.
36 Leonard.

37
38 MR. TUKLE: Yes, Nuiqsut's been doing okay
39 with subsistence hunting. And we've been living around
40 NPR-A, that northern eastern side is going to be fully
41 affected pretty soon. And the western side is okay. We had
42 lots of fish, we had lots of koviks (ph) and wolves and
43 totoofs (ph), musk-ox here and there, which is also good.
44 And if that NPR-A passes we're going to have a hard time with
45 our fishing grounds on Fish Creek area, which is going to be
46 fully impacted and we'll live along with that. Other than
47 that, fishing has been good and this hunting has been good
48 and everything has been good over there.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. Thank you,

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1 Leonard.

2

3 MR. TUKLE: All right.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any questions for the
6 Council members?

7

8 MR. BODFISH: You guys are getting smelts,
9 too, on that river delta, huh?

10

11 MR. TUKLE: Yeah.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Smelts are being found,
14 they found them in -- is that Kupuk River?

15

16 MR. TUKLE: Yeah.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Charlie.

19

20 MR. C. HOPSON: I have a question for
21 Leonard. How is the moose population doing, are there any
22 sightings this time of the year over there for moose?

23

24 MR. TUKLE: It's doing good, everybody has
25 been getting moose here and there all the way through
26 October 2. It's good, the moose population.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. After going
29 through the village once around a couple of -- three concerns
30 came up I need to mention from Kaktovik so if you recall any
31 concerns from your village, before we move on.

32

33 In Kaktovik the permitting system needs to be looked
34 at. We heard that the Alaska Board of Game had a proposal
35 from the Norton Sound folks for issuing permits only to one
36 household, or one permit per household, because some of the
37 same family members when they apply luck out and two family
38 members from one house get a permit. There were no comments
39 on that at that Council meeting, but we may have to revisit,
40 maybe with the community, on issuing permits for 26(C).

41

42 The question came up, how is the moose at 26(C) for
43 hunting again. I think that's an Alaska Board of Game issue.
44 I'm not sure how that will work out to open up moose hunting
45 or see how it is in 26(C), because that was closed a couple
46 of winters ago, I think, for how far it was closed.

47

48 Of course, we'll be visiting Proposal 63, a request
49 continues from Anaktuvuk Pass to get one or two musk-ox
50 within the park, so we'll visit that possibly early tomorrow

1 or tonight, depending on what the Council wants to do.

2

3 So with that, again, AKP wishes to get one or two
4 musk-ox in the AKP subsistence hunting areas, whether they be
5 Federal or State.

6

7 Permitting system at Kaktovik for 26(C) needs to be
8 revisited or with the community and can moose hunts commence
9 in 26(C)?

10

11 With that, we'll open it up again to the villages or
12 any other concern from village before we proceed with the
13 agenda.

14

15 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

18

19 MR. UPICKSOUN: I have a question. Regarding
20 the permitting process problem you ran into where there were
21 two permits for one household, could you guys resolve that
22 in-house?

23

24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I believe so. I think
25 working with the.....

26

27 MR. UPICKSOUN: Within your community?

28

29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, the Federal agency
30 that issue the permits in the community, I think we can
31 probably work that out, hopefully. Maybe it won't be a --
32 we'll give it -- but Norton Sound, I'm not sure how that
33 works. Maybe they work a permit system through the
34 regulations.

35

36 Geoff, can you enlighten us on the Norton Sound
37 proposal that's going in front of the Board of Game regarding
38 permitting or issuance of permits?

39

40 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, the Norton Sound Advisory
41 Committee, there were several Norton Sound villages that
42 thought it was unfair. This is under the Tier II State hunt
43 and they thought it was unfair that some families got two or
44 three permits within one family and their families didn't get
45 any permits at all. And they thought it would be a more
46 equitable situation if it was changed to where permits were
47 limited to one per family, that way more families could get
48 permits when, you know, it's got a limited number of permits
49 there. And so they submitted that proposal.

50

1 You know, I've also heard the same complaint in
2 Nuiqsut and other places that they thought it would be more
3 fair if, you know, it was limited to one permit per family.
4 And we went ahead in our recommendation, after I talked to
5 several people and we recommended that they amend that so
6 that it would include all Tier II musk-ox hunts, that the
7 permits would be limited to one per family.

8
9 I would have preferred to, you know, addressed this
10 at the North Slope Borough Fish and Game Management Committee
11 before, you know, we made that recommendation, but there
12 wasn't time, you know, the recommendations had to be in last
13 week. So I spoke to people in the Department of Wildlife
14 Management and talked to people in Kaktovik. And in Nuiqsut
15 everybody seemed to think it was a good idea. If, you know,
16 though further discussion people decide that that's not a
17 good idea, then, you know, we can at the Board meeting we can
18 just withdraw that part of it and, you know, recommend that
19 they only pass it for Norton Sound, but I thought we could go
20 ahead and get a book marker in place there, so we could go
21 ahead with it if we wanted to. And we could probably still
22 back out if we want to as well.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah. One additional
25 comment. At the City Council meeting there was really no
26 comments for or against that, but sort of few and far
27 between, where same family members get it year after year.

28
29 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: But they didn't have
32 either pro or con, but they said -- one comment was made that
33 even if they did -- both members or two members from one
34 house got it, they'd share around with the community members,
35 so a big.....

36
37 MR. CARROLL: The situation has come up a
38 couple of times in Nuiqsut where the Helmark (ph) family got
39 like two permits and, I don't know, people didn't think that
40 was real fair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

43
44 MR. CARROLL: They thought it would be better
45 to keep it, you know, one permit per family over there, so,
46 like I say, we can discuss this further and if people don't
47 want to do that, we don't have to.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Any other comment?
50 Donna.

1 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, just to let you know,
2 the issue has come up in Norton Sound with the Federal side,
3 but on the Federal side the way the permits are issued is
4 purely up to the community.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

7
8 MS. DEWHURST: So, like in the case of the
9 Seward Peninsula, there's, I don't know, five or six
10 communities and there's probably five or six different ways
11 the permits are issued, every community does it different.
12 Some of them IRA Council decides who the hunters will be kind
13 of designated hunters for the community.

14
15 Other ones they draw out of a hat. Another one you
16 might be interested in, is they had two hats and they had one
17 hat for people who had never gotten a musk-oxen, never had a
18 chance to hunt. They had put their names in that hat. And
19 then people that had already had opportunity, they already
20 had permits in the past are in the other hat and decided that
21 the first however many permits come out of the new hat and
22 then second half of them come out of the old hat. That way
23 it kind of gives preference and a little bit extra
24 opportunity to the folks that had never got them before.

25
26 So that's another way it's handled, but it's purely
27 up to -- like in the case of Kaktovik, it's purely up to you
28 guys how you want to do your permits.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

31
32 MS. DEWHURST: There's no Federal regulation
33 or anything that says how they're issued.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Donna.
36 Harry.

37
38 MR. H. BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
39 After listening to the concerns -- or comments about the
40 resources available throughout the winter, it seems like we
41 had a pretty good winter for caribou across the whole North
42 Slope. I didn't hear anything from Point Hope because we
43 don't have our representative, but it seems like the caribou
44 has been up on the North Slope throughout the winter this
45 year. That's a big change from previous years of having
46 caribou available to the communities.

47
48 I just wanted to bring that out and put it on the
49 record.

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, Kaktovik it is a
2 record, I think, for record sake when they're available near
3 town or near the village.

4
5 Any other comments for village concern?

6
7 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

10
11 MR. UPICKSOUN: I have one more, yeah. We
12 haven't found a simple permitting process in place here
13 within the Slope. And with the other hunts, like in Kotzebue
14 area, Norton Sound, that's going to complicate the permitting
15 issue. You think what's happening down in that area will
16 maybe affect there permitting process here on the Slope,
17 Geoff? They got a lot of issues down there, there's some
18 many Federal lands and it's not that simple in that area,
19 compared to our area. Do you see, maybe, the Board of Game
20 getting involved in this when they finally get a consistent
21 process in place, maybe, that will affect us?

22
23 MR. CARROLL: Well, the only thing I can see
24 where the Norton Sound actions might affect the North Slope
25 is this one musk-ox permit, per family thing. That's the
26 only change I would -- you know, that I would see that's even
27 a possibility up here, you know, where the -- you know,
28 Norton Sound, you know, they've come quite -- they made a lot
29 of progress in their musk-ox. Just like we have up here,
30 they were able to add a State Tier II hunt in conjunction
31 with their Federal hunt so that people are able to hunt on a
32 lot more of the land, both on State land and Federal land
33 down there. So they have really improved things down there
34 and made things better. But, you know, they work out their
35 problems and, you know, we're kind of working on our own
36 situation up here.

37
38 MR. UPICKSOUN: Have you heard comments down
39 there where they have to go 70 miles to go to Federal land
40 and there's musk-ox on the State land. They've got to get
41 together on that, you know.

42
43 MR. CARROLL: Well, they've made a lot of
44 progress on that in the last year, they have both a State and
45 a Federal hunt now, so.....

46
47 MR. UPICKSOUN: But you heard a lot of
48 complaints where they did have to go a long ways to get a
49 musk-ox and there's musk-ox on the State land, you know.
50 They got to come together on that issue.

1 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. Before we move
4 on to our number 7, this is the last chance for the village
5 concern.

6

7 Gordon Brower.

8

9 MR. G. BROWER: In working for North Slope
10 Borough, I deal with a lot of development in and around the
11 villages and I just wanted to make you aware that I take in
12 comments from people that are very concerned about wildlife
13 issues being affected by development. And I just want you
14 guys to know that. I try to make that know during Planning
15 Commission meetings that we try to take in complaints and act
16 on them. And I think this is another body that should know
17 you have places to go if you have concerns about development
18 and being with North Slope Borough permitting development and
19 wanting to hear concerns.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, you heard from
22 Nuiqsut that they are going to be impacted once NPR-A
23 exploration and production starts, especially in the
24 fisheries or the Fish Creek area around -- oh, west of the
25 Coville River.

26

27 I think it's worth noting and, Gordon Brower, I want
28 to thank you as much as we can or the power that we have to
29 keep track of impacts from activity. So, Leonard, we want to
30 thank you. We'll keep an eye out or keep our ears open for
31 the impact on fishing grounds and hunting. That's going to
32 be a subject, I think, in March, the latter part of March,
33 conflict between the users of the oil industry and
34 subsistence hunters and users. Some big meeting that's going
35 to happen next month and they'll be dealing with Prudhoe Bay
36 and Alpine and other impacts between the users.

37

38 So with that, I want to thank you, Gordon, for
39 bringing that up.

40

41 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, has that
42 meeting -- conflict workshop -- has a date been set for it?

43

44 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I think it's the week of
45 the 23rd or.....

46

47 MS. MORKILL: 22nd and 23rd.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: 22 and 23 of March.

50

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1 MR. G. BROWER: What's going.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: March 22 and 23 it's a
4 subsistence conflict.....

5

6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Resolution.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, resolution meeting,
9 conflict between the oil industry and the subsistence users.

10

11 MR. G. BROWER: And we have one more planning
12 meeting coming up, we just had one two weeks ago, I think,
13 and I think Ray Koonook -- or that was a Point Hope -- Tribal
14 guy from Point Hope involved in that. I think a bunch of
15 Federal -- there were some Federal agencies in on that
16 meeting and it's going to involve some -- and the Planning
17 Department will provide air fare for some of the people that
18 need to come up for that meeting.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Gordon.
21 Anything else? Mr. Bodfish.

22

23 MR. BODFISH: In our last meeting it was
24 brought up about doing a wolf movement from the Forty-Mile
25 area. And I've taken comments from the hunters around
26 Kotzebue area and Wainwright and they were for that wolf
27 move.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, we have a special
30 line item here to talk about wolves here with Craig later on
31 today, so thank you for bringing that up.

32

33 MR. BODFISH: Uh-huh.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other comments?

36

37 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

40

41 MR. UPICKSOUN: That could be a good meeting
42 and you mentioned maybe potential conflicts within the oil
43 industry and subsistence hunters. When we were in Kotzebue,
44 we heard another aspect of that conflict between the
45 subsistence hunters and the sportsmen hunters.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Sports and
48 recreationalists, yeah.

49

50 MR. UPICKSOUN: There were five Inupiats put

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1 in jail. Now, that was a conflict that got out of hand and I
2 hope it never happens up here. So that subsistence workshop
3 should be a good one next month.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah.

6
7 MR. UPICKSOUN: We heard the testimony from
8 the people that were in that area when that happened and when
9 five of our fellow Inpuits landed in jail. And we heard
10 from the people that were involved, so we should have a good
11 meeting in that regard next month.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Gordon.

14
15 Okay, we'll move on to number 7. I just want to
16 review this real quickly again. MMPA, Taqulik Hepa is going
17 to be bringing by the memo or the letter from Charlie Johnson
18 who's the Chairman of the Alaska Nanuuq Commission. That'll
19 have the answers to our questions from the last meeting.

20
21 And, for the record, Michael Patkotak is ill today,
22 so he is excused. During the break we can talk with our
23 coordinator and see about the fill in, so we'll work that
24 out, but we do have a quorum to take care of business.

25
26 That was under 7B. Scott Schliebe is not going to be
27 here. And, for the record, Greg McClellan has joined us from
28 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or Arctic Refuge. And
29 Tommy Ulimon (ph) in the back there from the North Slope
30 Borough Wildlife Department. Good morning, Tommy.

31
32 MR. ULIMON (ph): Hi.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: 7B, we have the Wildlife
35 Department, Charlie Brower, it'll be covered by Taqulik,
36 possibly later this morning. The other change is that we may
37 hear from BLM later this afternoon, depending on the meetings
38 that are going on with Yokel and his new boss.

39
40 Sverre Pedersen, I hear, will join us tomorrow if we
41 are still going to be doing business tomorrow. So, Geoff,
42 you may want to give us an update when his turn comes up,
43 that's 7F. Then wolf relocation and we may take care
44 business all in one day, hopefully, we'll see. Depending on
45 the Council and the Federal and State agencies, I'm sure,
46 would like to take care business, but we might want to take
47 an early break this afternoon and start in the evening, if
48 that's what the Council members wish to do. That's entirely
49 up to the Council to do that or start in the morning. So
50 when we get toward the end of the day or mid-afternoon we'll

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1 discuss that further. Or agenda is not very long so -- we
2 could make it shorter if we give the agencies about five
3 minutes to make their reports, but I'm not sure that'll
4 happen that quickly.

5

6 So with that, what's the wish of the Council on
7 agency reports? Do you want to take a five-minute break?

8

9 MR. UPICKSOUN: Ten.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Or 10-minute break. Ten
12 minutes?

13

14 MR. UPICKSOUN: Uh-huh.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Ten-minute recess.

17

18 (Off record)

19

20 (On record)

21

22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: We were down to the agency
23 reports. The migratory bird update by Bill and also
24 fisheries update, so maybe we'll combine those two together
25 and -- unless somebody wants to take a break from Bill and
26 then -- so we can bury him this morning.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: So, Bill, I'll turn it
31 over to you, migratory bird update and I think it's under Tab
32 S.

33

34 MR. KNAUER: That's correct.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: You got some information
37 on that.

38

39 MR. KNAUER: The portion on migratory birds
40 will be really short. As you know, after many years of
41 effort the protocol amending the Migratory Bird Treaty with
42 Canada was finally signed in 1997 and that provided for the
43 establishment, one thing, of management bodies.

44

45 The Fish and Wildlife Service, in conjunction with
46 the Department of Fish and Game and the Native Migratory Bird
47 Working Group conducted about eight meetings around the
48 state, many of those were conducted in conjunction with
49 Regional Council meetings. One of those was here in Barrow.

50

1 Charlie Brower, who you all know, is an active
2 participant in that group, he's been very active in the
3 effort over a number of years to negotiate the changes.

4
5 The group is now putting together and analyzing the
6 comments that were received around the state. They will
7 publish a document sometime this spring that will go out for
8 public review. I'm sure this Council will receive a copy for
9 consideration. And then after comments are on that document
10 are received, they'll go ahead put together a final plan and
11 hope to have something on line by this fall.

12
13 The end product of all of this will be regulations
14 that will allow the spring take of waterfowl in a legal
15 manner. We recognize that spring take has occurred for a
16 number of years, there has always been a shadow cast over it
17 because it's always been considered illegal, although
18 frequently overlooked and not enforced because of the
19 recognition that it was very traditional. So this will help
20 to alleviate a lot of concerns and provide for the customary
21 and traditional spring harvests that have occurred.

22
23 And as you're aware, it is an effort that is being
24 undertaken with participation of the local people throughout
25 the state.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Is that it, Bill?

28
29 MR. KNAUER: That's it on migratory birds.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I'm going to open it up to
32 the Council members on the migratory birds, it's under Tab S.
33 The representative comments about management bodies heard at
34 migratory public forums is good information. I don't know
35 what the time frame is, again, for our region to come. Did
36 you say they were going to do some reporting here soon?

37
38 MR. KNAUER: They'll be putting out a
39 document sometime this spring that has a plan describing the
40 various alternatives for the management bodies.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. So that'll come
43 before this body and also -- well, we won't meet until this
44 fall.

45
46 MR. KNAUER: I'm sure they'll send copies to
47 this body, I don't know whether this body will have a special
48 meeting or not or whether comments may have to be done in
49 writing, I don't know. A lot will depend on timing.

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

2

3 MR. KNAUER: I do not know whether they're on
4 schedule or not. Charlie could give you a lot of information
5 on that.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

8

9 MR. KNAUER:because he's actively
10 involved in that effort.

11

12 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Harry Brower.

15

16 MR. H. BROWER: Bill, you didn't -- I don't
17 see anything about egging, are they going to be addressing
18 that issue, also?

19

20 MR. KNAUER: That will be part of it, yes.

21

22 MR. H. BROWER: Okay.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Any other questions
25 on migratory birds from the Council members?

26

27 Thank you, Bill. Again, maybe for the recorder's
28 sake, you could speak up, those that are further away from
29 the mike, bring the mike closer and speak up so the audience
30 can also hear, I don't know how the acoustics are in the room
31 here. So if you can, speak up, so you can be heard.

32

33 Bill, continue on with fisheries then, if there's no
34 comments on the bird issue.

35

36 MR. KNAUER: Moving on with fisheries. The
37 Secretary in a public announcement on January 5th in
38 Washington, D.C., announced the publication of the final
39 regulations extending management for jurisdiction for
40 fisheries relating to both the Katie John decision and also
41 in response to two petitions. One of which came from the old
42 State Regional Council.

43

44 And they were published January 8th, they will not be
45 effective though until October 1. That's in light of the
46 1999 Appropriations Act which provide for a phased in
47 implementation. That Act authorizes \$1,000,000 to come to
48 the Department of Interior for planning purposes on June 1.
49 If the State has not placed a measure on the ballot, a
50 subsistence measure on the ballot, then on September 30, if

1 the State still has not placed a measure on the ballot, the
2 Department of Interior and Agriculture would get an
3 additional \$10,000,000 and the regulations would become
4 effective October 1.

5

6 They apply only to Federal lands and waters. As
7 you're aware, Senator Murkowski, just this week -- well, I
8 guess in the past couple of days, appeared before the State
9 Legislature and encouraged the Legislature to work to
10 resolved the issue to get the State into compliance with
11 Title VIII. He indicated that he did not think that there
12 were any more moratoriums or hold-ups in the works.

13

14 Secretary Babbitt has also strongly stated he would
15 recommend that the President veto any action by Congress
16 which would further suspend implementation.

17

18 The rule, itself, there are copies on the back table,
19 although I think you all received copies, use as a starting
20 point the existing State subsistence regulations. It does
21 extend jurisdiction for fisheries to Federal waters. It
22 extends jurisdiction on waters within or adjacent to inland
23 waters, within or adjacent to all Federal conservation
24 systems units. And that includes refuges, such as the Arctic
25 National Wildlife Refuge. It includes the NPR-A. It
26 includes Gates of the Arctic National Park. Areas such that.

27

28 It also includes extension for wildlife to selected
29 but no yet conveyed lands within those areas. In other
30 words, protecting the resource and managing them as Federal
31 areas.

32

33 It reiterates the Secretary's authority to extend
34 jurisdiction off of Federal lands. This is an authority that
35 has existed for many years, although over the past century
36 it's probably been only exerted about a half a dozen times.
37 It's something that is a very rare occurrence. It is a very
38 significant action, so it is something the Secretary
39 undertakes lightly.

40

41 The regulations also provide for the Board to
42 delegate some authorities to field managers to respond very
43 quickly to necessary in-season actions that are more common
44 in the fisheries management arena.

45

46 The customary trade language in the final regulations
47 has been simplified from what appeared in the proposed
48 regulations and it provides the leeway to recognize regional
49 differences. When we were conducting meetings around the
50 state, the Council vary significantly in what they believed

1 should be the definition of customary trade.

2

3 Some Councils said in their region fish taken for
4 subsistence were not sold. Other regions said, well, yes,
5 limited amounts of dried fish or white fish were sold. Other
6 regions said, we don't believe there should be any
7 restriction on them. So that's something that the Board will
8 depend very heavily on the Regional Councils to tell them
9 what should be appropriate for their region.

10

11 The Federal Subsistence Board is meeting with the
12 Board of Fish, Board of Game and the Commissioner's office to
13 try and coordinate how some of the implementation should take
14 place. There is a concern that we do not duplicate efforts
15 and that we have a coordinated effort in the management of
16 fishery so as not to disrupt the user on the ground and to
17 try to avoid confusion where possible.

18

19 The Federal Subsistence Board recognizes that the
20 management of fisheries is a very complex effort and the
21 Staff Committee, of whom Ida and Sandy are both members, are
22 working right now to look at things as to how to develop --
23 what sort of an organizational structure is necessary to be
24 in place. What's necessary as far as the fishery management
25 plans that the State has? Are they adequate? Are they
26 responsive to the subsistence user? Do they need to be
27 modified?

28

29 We want to look and see just exactly what sort of a
30 regulatory process we need to have in place for fisheries.
31 We think, right now, it'll probably be something like
32 wildlife offset about six months, so that under a fisheries
33 program you might be receiving proposals or developing
34 proposals at this time of the year and then deliberating on
35 proposal in your fall meeting. That's just one option that
36 we're taking a look at.

37

38 Certainly one concern is along the Yukon River, that
39 spans three Regional Councils, it is a continual checkerboard
40 of management with Federal management being interspersed with
41 State management areas, so that's a real concern. And in
42 that area, the subsistence user is frequently the commercial
43 user and the personal use fisherman and sometimes the sport
44 fisherman all in one person. And all of these entities are
45 asking for that same fish.

46

47 Likewise, there's international implications with
48 those salmon being used by the Canadian folks also. Again,
49 some of whom are sport, some of whom are commercial, some of
50 whom are subsistence user. So that's a real concern in that

1 very complicated system. We also anticipate that there may
2 be additional opportunities throughout the state to enter
3 into agreements with various Tribal and Native organizations
4 for management and studies to be done.

5

6 That's where we are on fisheries right now. A couple
7 of other things that are somewhat related. There are three
8 -- excuse me, there is some litigation still in the works.
9 The Katie John case, although it was refused by the Supreme
10 Court, all actions on it have been placed on hold until
11 October 1 to see what happens with the Federal
12 implementation.

13

14 And then also, as you're aware, the State Legislative
15 Council, the Alaska Legislative Council which acts for the
16 Legislature when it's not in session, filed suit in the
17 District Court of District of Columbia challenging Federal
18 management. That suit was dismissed by the court. It has
19 been appealed to the Court of Appeals for the District of
20 Columbia. They're expecting a decision on that sometime this
21 summer and, although I cannot say what the court would do,
22 the comments that I have heard lend very little credence to
23 the chances of success for that suit. So we believe that the
24 Federal viewpoint will prevail in that.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any questions from the
27 Council?

28

29 MR. UPICKSOUN: I have a question for Bill.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: You need to speak up
32 and.....

33

34 MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes. I have a question for
35 Bill. Bill, by October 1st we'll know whether -- what the
36 State had done about the subsistence issue. When will we
37 know about the 11,000,000, when will the appropriation cycle
38 be that we know that it's going to be funded fully, the
39 11,000,000?

40

41 MR. KNAUER: The funding has already been
42 approved, it's in the budget. And, essentially, what happens
43 is, if the State has not acted June 1, it's an automatic
44 1,000,000, because that was in last year's budget.

45

46 MR. UPICKSOUN: June 1?

47

48 MR. KNAUER: That's for 1,000,000. And then
49 on September 30th, if the State has not acted it's an
50 automatic additional 10,000,000 to the Federal program.

1 MR. UPICKSOUN: And you have the money
2 already?

3
4 MR. KNAUER: It's already been approved in
5 the 1999 Appropriations Act, so it has already been approved.

6
7 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay.

8
9 MR. KNAUER: If the State does act, they get
10 the money. So if they have go something on the ballot by
11 June 1, they'll get the whole 11,000,000. If they don't make
12 the June 1 date, but they make the September 30 date, they
13 get 10,000,000, so it is a little bit of an incentive for the
14 State to try and come into compliance with Title VIII.

15
16 MR. B. HOPSON: I have a question for Bill,
17 too. Out of that \$11,000,000, this will create new jobs
18 within the State on Federal lands, having to do with
19 fisheries. Do you know how much -- do you have any
20 projections of people with traditional knowledge that are
21 expected to be hired? Like within the indigenous peoples?

22
23 MR. KNAUER: Right now we don't know how that
24 money is going to be divvied among the Federal agencies. As
25 you're aware there are five agencies involved, Fish and
26 Wildlife Service, Forest Service, Park Service, BLM and BIA.
27 We do know that of the 11,000,00, 3,000,000 would go to
28 Forest Service, so that money, we can be pretty sure, is
29 going to be spent in Southcentral and Southeast. There
30 aren't too many national forests up here on the North Slope.

31
32 Of the other 8,000,000 it would be divvied up among
33 the four Interior agencies. And we do know there's going to
34 be an effort to increase both the opportunity for Native
35 organization and Tribal cooperative agreements and contracts
36 so there will be some money funneling directly there. As far
37 as agencies actually hiring personnel, we have not even got
38 as far as to determine what we need, yet, we don't know.

39
40 So that's something that will be looked at more
41 closely as we approach June 1.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, Brower and then
44 Mr. Ulvi.

45
46 MR. H. BROWER: Bill, I wasn't sure or I
47 didn't hear anything whether they're going to be new Councils
48 within the fisheries management or is that going to be -- are
49 you going to be directly working with the current Regional
50 Advisory Councils under this fisheries management issue?

1 MR. KNAUER: One of the things that the Board
2 did was specifically ask each of the Regional Councils
3 whether they thought that new Councils were needed or the
4 existing Councils expanded, because we do anticipate there is
5 going to be some additional work. All of the Councils said
6 that they believed, initially, they thought they could
7 probably handle the effort. That something, though, that
8 will be looked at a lot more closely as we approach
9 implementation date and, if necessary, we may need to do
10 something a little different.

11
12 Particularly -- one area, like I said, that will be
13 particularly looked at will be the Yukon River, where we know
14 it a very complicated situation. Here on the North Slope
15 there are not quite the same conflicting demands that there
16 are along the Yukon, so -- and here you got one Council that
17 covers the whole area. On the Yukon you got the Y-K Delta,
18 you got the Eastern Interior and the Western Interior
19 Regional Councils, so that may be an area that we may need to
20 look at something additional.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Ulvi.

23
24 MR. ULVI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Steve
25 Ulvi, Gates of the Arctic National Park and I just wanted to
26 follow-up on Bill's response to Ben's question. I think both
27 Ben and Harry's questions are very good. It's like the
28 timing will be such that you will, again, have a fall
29 Regional Council meeting in September, as you usually do, and
30 so that kind of be right at the 11th hour there and we'll
31 probably have a good idea about how this is all going to go.

32
33 And I just wanted to respond from an agency's
34 perspective, from Park Service. Pretty much what Bill said
35 is true and that all we've talked about are very general
36 kinds of position we might be looking at and where they
37 should be stationed, in our central office or in the parks or
38 where. And so several of those positions, at least, would be
39 field positions, in places like Fairbanks and other field
40 areas for parks. And they would generally be fisheries
41 biologists or management biologists, people that have fishery
42 degrees of one sort of another.

43
44 But there should be, and I think there will continue
45 to be an interest in also the opportunity for local hire for
46 people to help do community surveys or work with community
47 calendars or work with harvest reporting or something like
48 that. So I would hope this Council would continue to have
49 interest and pay attention to that. And I certainly thing
50 the Subsistence Resource Commissions for the parks will also

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1 be talking about that issue as it comes up.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other questions?

4

5 (No audible responses)

6

7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I have one, Mr. Knauer,
8 it's related to possible litigation, not with fisheries or
9 what's described by or reported by Jamie Clark but at the
10 User Conflict meeting we had in Kotzebue we ran across a
11 pending litigation from the Sierra Club challenging the C&T
12 for the use of sheep from Point Hope to Kaktovik. Do you
13 know what the status is in front of the Federal Subsistence
14 Board?

15

16 MR. KNAUER: Yes, that's the Safari Club
17 International.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Oh, sorry.

20

21 MR. KNAUER:and others. They're
22 challenging the customary and traditional use determination
23 process in actually a number of locations. The sheep C&T in
24 Unit 26. The sheep in Unit 23. Caribou in Unit 22(A).
25 Musk-ox in Unit 22(D). They're challenging the regulations
26 on the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area. And then moving
27 south they're also challenging moose in Unit 15, which is on
28 the Kenai Peninsula and moose down in Unit 1, which is
29 Southeast.

30

31 We're in the very, very early stages of that suit.
32 Right now they're -- in fact, I've been working the past two
33 weeks putting together background material for the Solicitor
34 with the Department of Justice, who would serving as the
35 government's lawyer on the case. So it's very, very early.
36 I -- you know, I don't know what more to say than that. It
37 is something that there has been some concern that in some of
38 the cases they allege that decisions have been made without
39 adequate justification. They seem to be disregarding much of
40 the discussion and information that Regional Councils have
41 provided.

42

43 Our solicitors tell us that good Regional Council
44 discussion, on record, with traditional knowledge being
45 provide before the Council, either from members of the public
46 or the Council members provides a very strong justification
47 for Board decisions. And they feel very good about the
48 government's position on this.

49

50 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And if I can add something

1 to that. This Council has been particularly good about
2 providing adequate information. I mean I've always tried to
3 pull it from you and to provide information on the record and
4 we've always been complimented when I've gone back to the
5 office and people have read transcripts they've always
6 complimented the Council on providing really good traditional
7 knowledge and putting it in the record to support some of the
8 decisions that we've made on customary and traditional use
9 determinations. I mean, I think we've done a good job.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. So in the future,
12 will we have to help the Federal Board or do you have
13 adequate information in your -- the Safari Club has challenge
14 that we shouldn't be sending those kind of customary uses.

15

16 MR. KNAUER: We believe the Council, and
17 particularly this one, has done a very good job in supporting
18 the recommendations that you have made. And because of that
19 we believe there's a very good administrative record, which
20 is the government needs to defend cases in situations like
21 this.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: So we need not worry about
24 that suit against the Federal Board then, as a Council?

25

26 MR. KNAUER: I don't think as a Council.
27 Like I said, the indications from the Solicitor's office have
28 indicated that they feel very good about this.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

31

32 MR. KNAUER: That's not to say that, you
33 know, something couldn't happen, but.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. All right. What we
36 were just talking about, for your information, the Safari
37 Club challenged our tradition that we made that residents
38 from Point Hope could go to Kaktovik and hunt sheep or vice
39 versa. Remember a couple of meetings ago, also for the
40 people from Wainwright, if they happen to be around Kaktovik,
41 they could hunt sheep there as well. So that is being
42 challenged by the Safari Club that this shouldn't happen.

43

44 Anyway, thank you for the information, Bill. Before
45 we move on, any questions for Bill? Before we move on any
46 questions for Mr. Knauer on fisheries and.....

47

48 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, I have one
49 question on that Safari Club issue. When Bill mentioned Unit
50 26, does he mean the whole unit or (A) or (B) or (C)? The

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1 whole issue about C&T about sheep, is that throughout Unit
2 26?

3

4 MR. KNAUER: The decision that was made for
5 C&T for sheep looked at the whole unit, if you remember.
6 That was a proposal from about two years ago, I think. And
7 so they were challenging the proposal and the decision that
8 was made for the whole unit at the time. They were
9 essentially saying that there was not information upon which
10 to base that decision.

11

12 And we have gone back, we examined the transcripts of
13 your Council meetings, the transcripts of the Federal
14 Subsistence Board meetings in which your Chair testified and
15 provided it to the Solicitor. That was just part of the
16 suit.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Hopson. Or, Gordon,
19 did you have.....

20

21 MR. UPICKSOUN: I'm done. No, thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Mr. Hopson and then
24 Ms. Hildebrand.

25

26 MR. B. HOPSON: I just wanted to make one
27 comment. Earlier this fall I was looking at our edition of
28 Alaska Geographic, the Brook Range, the environmental water
29 ship. And I was flipping through the magazine and I noticed
30 a picture -- there was a picture taken of an Eskimo family
31 from Barrow. It must have been around 1910, somewhere around
32 there, but they were holding up sheep horns outside their
33 house, you know, for the record. The photo looked like
34 somewhere around 1910 maybe.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. Thank you,
37 Ben.

38

39 Ida.

40

41 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, Federal
42 Subsistence Staff Committee member. On the Safari Club
43 challenge, it's messy. The Safari Club is challenging the
44 traditional knowledge and traditional statements as opposed
45 to Western science. And any time there's traditional
46 knowledge, they're saying that it isn't science or it isn't
47 sufficient evidence. So although your Council provides good
48 information, it's something that I would urge you all to stay
49 attuned to because it's a challenge that affects all
50 subsistence uses.

1 And I personally disagree with that challenge. I
2 believe the Native peoples of Alaska have been here in excess
3 of 30,000 years. The Safari Club and any other person who
4 challenges traditional knowledge as lack of substantial
5 evidence has no basis on which to make that statement, other
6 than white supremacy and racism. The State has only
7 documented their use very sparsely since 1960. So those kind
8 of challenges should be addressed any time you hear them, so
9 I would urge you to stay attuned.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Ida.
12 All right. We'll move on to the next item if there's no more
13 questions from the Council or anything for Bill on the
14 fisheries and the migratory bird. I want to thank you, Bill.

15

16 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Harry.

19

20 MR. H. BROWER: Bill, you mentioned something
21 about Ida and Sandy doing some type of reg for the fisheries,
22 was.....

23

24 MR. KNAUER: They're both on the Staff
25 Committee, which is composed of a representative from each of
26 the five agencies. They are the ones that try and help
27 provide some guidance to the subsistence management folks
28 over at Fish and Wildlife. But they also look at some of the
29 broader policy issues and they're -- that group, right now,
30 is looking at what we're calling an Action Plan for the
31 implementation of fisheries.

32

33 That'll include things like how do we organize, how
34 do we divvied up the money; how do we make sure that the in-
35 season actions for fisheries are done in a manner that
36 protects the resource and the subsistence user? They're
37 looking at what we need to set forth a process so the
38 subsistence users can make proposals. How we want to deal
39 with proposals; how we want to deal with Special Actions and
40 Requests for Reconsideration.

41

42 We got a little bit of background with wildlife, but
43 we know that some things with fisheries are a little bit
44 different and we may need to tweak things a little. So
45 that's what they're working, hot and heavy, on right now.
46 The Staff Committee had a meeting on Friday, they'll be
47 meeting again on Thursday of this week to try and look at
48 some of these things more in depth and they'll be continuing
49 to meet throughout the summer on trying to get things
50 organized.

1 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman, to further my
2 comment, will the Council have the opportunity to review the
3 Staff Committee's recommendations on these issues?
4

5 MR. KNAUER: You will be meeting again in
6 September, roughly, which is before the implementation. We
7 will be providing you a further update. Many of the things
8 that they'll be dealing with are the internal organization
9 and internal structure of the program as opposed to Regional
10 Councils. But they will also be looking at ways at which
11 there can be increased cooperation and management
12 opportunities for the, like I said, the Tribal and Native
13 organizations. In fact, that's a topic that Ida will be
14 working on with a couple of other folks, too.
15

16 MR. H. BROWER: Thank you.
17

18 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman.
19

20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.
21

22 MR. UPICKSOUN: On another issue, we went all
23 the way to the Supreme Court and lost, on the Indian Country
24 issue. I recommend that staff watch that Safari Club suit.
25 Keep us informed about the status, because you can't tell
26 what the court's going to decide. Look what happened in the
27 Supreme Court. So you can't tell what the courts are going
28 to do, so I recommend that the staff watch that suit very
29 carefully.
30

31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Gordon.
32

33 All right, with that -- no further comment or
34 questions, with that, again, Bill, thank you. We had MMPA
35 crossed off and in place of that I promised that we would get
36 a letter from Charlie Johnson and Taqulik Hepa is here.
37

38 Oh, Sandy, I'm sorry.
39

40 MR. RABINOWITCH: If I could just add a
41 comment to the last item from Bill. That both Ida and I and
42 other Staff Committee members are well aware of your keen
43 interest to hear about choices that come along with fisheries
44 management before the choices are made. We're very aware of
45 that and certainly we'll do everything we can to make sure
46 that you hear about things before the decisions are made. I
47 mean I can't make guarantees about everything, but we're
48 aware of that and we'll work hard to bring all those kinds of
49 things in front of you. And, you know, lay out what we think
50 the options and choices are, get your input and input from

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1 all the other Councils before decisions are made. And that's
2 to the point that Harry brought up. We hear you loud and
3 clear and we're working hard to do just that.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Sandy.

6

7 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Taqulik Hepa has joined
10 us, she's in the back, she's the Deputy Director for Wildlife
11 Department. And she brought over a copy that was addressed
12 to Charles D.N. Brower and it going to cover the place of the
13 polar bear issue. So at this time Taqulik can run us through
14 the memo, I'd appreciate it and then we'll move on to Helen
15 Armstrong after that.

16

17 MS. HEPA: Hi, my name is Taqulik Hepa, I
18 work with the North Slope Borough, Department of Wildlife
19 Management as Deputy Director.

20

21 This same concern was brought up at our North Slope
22 Borough Fish and Game Management Committee and at the request
23 of the Committee to get some type of response, our Director,
24 Charlie Brower, had contacted the Executive Director for the
25 Nanuug Commission, who is Charlie Johnson. And in response
26 to the concerns that were brought up, Charlie Johnson, on
27 January 12, had faxed our Director, Charlie Brower, this
28 statement answering the questions that were brought up.

29

30 And this was regarding the polar bear trade issues.
31 Okay. "The 1992 [sic] MMPA was passed to stop all the taking
32 of marine mammals. The key feature for us as Alaska Natives
33 is Section 101(b) which give Alaska Natives an exemption from
34 taking marine mammals as long as it is for subsistence,
35 handicrafts or clothing. The exemption was fiercely fought
36 for by Alaska Natives wanting to protect the subsistence
37 culture and the ability of Alaska Natives to use the marine
38 mammals that are vital to the culture. MMPA also allows for
39 sale of raw product, such as hides or tusks between Alaska
40 Natives but prohibits sale of raw products to non-natives.
41 (Jail time and fines are possible up to \$100,000 in the
42 extreme case.)

43

44 It is also important to not that this is the only
45 legislation that recognizes Alaska Native subsistence rights.
46 ANILCA recognizes us as "rural residents" for a substance
47 priority, it does not recognize us as Alaska Natives.

48

49 It would require an amendment to MMPA to allow sale
50 of raw products such as polar bear hides. The same would be

1 true if guided hunts for non-natives were sought. The danger
2 is that Congress and environmental groups would view this as
3 an attempt to commercialize a subsistence resource and our
4 subsistence rights under MMPA may be compromised.

5

6 These issues may be better addressed after our treaty
7 with Russia is in place. The timing is not right now to
8 raise those issues. In the future guided hunts may be
9 considered. For example, in Eastern Canada, non-natives are
10 taken on guided walrus hunts. The non-native cannot take the
11 ivory. They give them plastic replicas of their trophy.

12

13 But these issues must be handled very carefully. We
14 have done a lot of work with the environmental groups to get
15 them to support our subsistence rights. Now is not the time
16 to shake that cage."

17

18 And he's exactly right, you know, we have that --
19 right now there's a lot of things that are happening with the
20 subsistence, you know, within the State of Alaska and for us
21 to bring this out right now would kind of bring us back a
22 couple of steps, you know. If one group of Natives, like for
23 example, from the North Slope are interested in opening up a
24 hunt for people to have guided hunts or to be able to sell
25 the hides to Natives, that would kind of bring the Native
26 community a couple of steps back because, you know, the
27 subsistence in general. The way to go is to have unified,
28 you know, same position.

29

30 I don't know if Harry would like -- I know he's
31 talked to Charlie about this, too, but if Harry would like to
32 add anything to that.

33

34 MR. H. BROWER: I think you covered most of
35 what we discussed. Anyway, Mr. Chairman, this is in part of
36 the response to Michael Patkotak concern on polar bear trade
37 issue and it's stated in our minutes on page two.

38

39 MR. B. HOPSON: Yeah, I recall Mike's
40 comments that he wanted to see some sort of a
41 commercialization of polar bear products.

42

43 MR. H. BROWER: It states he's not asking for
44 commercialization, but he wanted clarification on Native
45 handicraft on polar bears.

46

47 MR. B. HOPSON: Okay.

48

49 MR. H. BROWER: And this was, in part, that
50 response.

1 MR. B. HOPSON: Okay.

2

3 MR. H. BROWER: Thank you, Taqulik.

4

5 MS. HEPA: And, you know, to take it one step
6 further, you know, a concern like Mike's is very important
7 and it's a good concern. And it's part of the Department's
8 job with the North Slope Borough is to go educate them on
9 what kind of consequences can happen if, you know, something
10 like that was to happen. You know, what are going to be the
11 consequences, because there was a big picture of, you know,
12 subsistence in general. And, you know, for Charlie Johnson
13 to, you know, write this up and for us to pass it on to
14 someone like Mike is, you know, one step to educate what can
15 happen if this was to come up.

16

17 MR. B. HOPSON: Anyone have other questions
18 for Taqulik?

19

20 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman.

21

22 MR. B. HOPSON: Gordon.

23

24 MR. UPICKSOUN: That issue was brought up
25 also in the North Slope Borough Wildlife Management Committee
26 meeting by an elder from Wainwright (indiscernible) to sell
27 polar bear hide.

28

29 MS. HEPA: Uh-huh.

30

31 MR. UPICKSOUN: I think that's where this
32 discussion started when Rossman Peetook brought it up about a
33 year ago, maybe a year ago.

34

35 MS. HEPA: Yeah. And I know that when
36 Mr. Peetook had brought this up at the Committee, he talked
37 about, you know, his understanding about what happens in
38 Canada and their guided hunts and how their system is worked.

39

40 And, like Charlie had stated, you know, there's some
41 issues at the table that need to be resolved before we pursue
42 this. It may be something that we can consider in the
43 future, but until other things are resolved it may be better
44 to wait until things are taken care of, like the agreement
45 between the Russians and the Nanuuq Commission.

46

47 MR. UPICKSOUN: What treaty are they
48 referring to the one that may be coming up with Russia?

49

50 MS. HEPA: A shared agreement between the

1 Alaska Natives Nanuuq hunters or the Nanuuq Commission and
2 the Russians to have a shared working relationship in the
3 quota. Or not the quota, there is no quota, but an agreement
4 to have a shared agreement in the management of polar bears,
5 since the polar bears go back and forth. Just like the
6 Canadian and the Beaufort Sea side, they have an agreement,
7 too, so it would be similar to that one.

8

9 MR. H. BROWER: And another comparison would
10 be like the Beluga Committees working agreement, similar to
11 that. Or the one we have between Canada and the North Slope
12 on the Beaufort Sea stock. There's different stocks they're
13 talking about, but they use this certain area. That the
14 Nanuuq Commission and the Russian protocol it's a similar
15 agreement. It's a user group that specific to one stock in
16 the area.

17

18 MR. UPICKSOUN: I see this issue staying the
19 way it is for quite some time, because we had the opportunity
20 to see what used to happen when they hunt for the hides. I
21 was in Kotzebue a couple of times when they whole bay was
22 full of planes, when they used to go polar bear hunting.
23 That's not the way to use our subsistence resource. That's
24 not the way to commercialize our subsistence resource.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chairman.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Terry.

31

32 MR. TAGAROOK: Do you know what the polar
33 bear population is on the Slope? Anybody know?

34

35 MS. HEPA: Harry.

36

37 MR. H. BROWER: It's estimated around 2,000
38 in the area that we use. The Beaufort Sea stock is around
39 2,000.

40

41 MR. TAGAROOK: I think they're so numerous we
42 would have polar bear patrols.

43

44 MR. H. BROWER: Uh-huh.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Terry. Any
47 other questions for Taqulik?

48

49 (No audible responses)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you for relaying
2 that for us, Taqulik.

3
4 We'll run down to the customary and traditional
5 taskforce update by Helen Armstrong. Helen.

6
7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Oh, for the record,
10 Kenneth Itta, an elder from Barrow has joined us as a guest.
11 Welcome.

12
13 MR. ITTA: Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Report on the customary
16 and traditional working groups. I know we (indiscernible)
17 issues and recommendation, so, Helen, if you can, walk us
18 through this.

19
20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 Barb passed out a little while ago a sheet of paper that's a
22 single sheet of paper that's titled "Report on the C&T
23 Working Group" that summarizes what I'm going to discuss with
24 you this morning. Those of you who were at the fall meeting
25 would remember that we had a lengthy discussion about how we
26 should do C&T determinations and this was in response to a
27 C&T working group that was formed after the Board meeting
28 last spring. The Federal Board has asked that we address
29 this issue of how to do C&T determinations.

30
31 And the working group, which was made up of three
32 Council chairs or -- yeah, three Council chairs and Ida and
33 Sandy were both on the working group. Our Solicitor as well
34 as another Staff Committee member from Forest Service. The
35 working group met three times, they had one teleconference
36 and they reviewed, in the fall after the Council meeting, the
37 recommendations of the Councils. And after going, at great
38 length, through that discussion they came up with some areas
39 they wanted to, then, relay back to you.

40
41 The information we got from the Councils, there was a
42 lot of consensus, I think, of some concerns. All the
43 Councils had some concerns, and one of those, probably the
44 most important one, was the importance of traditional
45 knowledge that in the C&T determinations that traditional
46 knowledge needs to play a very large part. And I think,
47 without a doubt, all the Councils felt that and expressed
48 that really strongly.

49
50 There was a recognition by the working group that we

1 could do that, incorporate more traditional knowledge without
2 actually changing the process of how we do C&T.

3

4 Another issue was whether or not we should do our C&T
5 analysis singularly with one species at a time or do them
6 with multiple species. And there was a recommendation that
7 we could do that, actually, within the existing process
8 without having to change anything in our regulations. We are
9 actually doing that this year in a number of proposals by
10 lumping our discussion. For example, we have some for Healey
11 Lake and they're doing multiple species analysis for that
12 area.

13

14 This won't have much consequence here because we have
15 already done most of the C&T determinations for the large
16 species on the North Slope, so I don't think it will make a
17 whole lot of difference here in the future.

18

19 There was a lot of discussion, and this came out in
20 this Council meeting about what to do if there were
21 differences between regions and how people wanted to do C&T.
22 And this has been one of the reasons this issue even came up,
23 is that different Councils have been doing C&T in slightly
24 different ways. And there was a lot of discussion about
25 that. There were also difference by region and how we wanted
26 to do C&T. There was one region that wanted to do it on a
27 unit-by-unit basis, that do it just for the whole entire unit
28 and say that you get C&T for all the surrounding units. And
29 what would we do if there were differences in how people
30 wanted to do C&T, especially when we have cross over
31 proposals.

32

33 The recommendations of the 10 Councils, their
34 conclusions were, that nine out of the 10 wanted to continue
35 making C&T determinations. There was one Council that felt
36 we shouldn't do them at all, that there was no reason to be
37 doing them. Four Councils voted that the C&T process should
38 be developed by the Regional Councils. Your Council was one
39 of those, as well as North Slope, Northwest Arctic and Seward
40 Peninsula, and I can't remember what the fourth one was. I
41 know it's the three that I go to plus one.

42

43 As a result, the majority of the Councils felt that
44 we should continue with doing C&T the way we're doing it now.
45 So there won't be any actual change in the regulations at
46 this point. There is some guidance that needs to be provided
47 to the staff and to the Councils on how to deal with some
48 variations, like doing all species or a species-by-species
49 approach.

50

1 And at this point, our Chair, Mitch Demientieff, who
2 was also part of that working group, requested that we take
3 this information back to the Councils and that the Board will
4 take up these recommendations at some later point in time.
5 We haven't determined when that will be. And in the meantime
6 we'll continue doing C&T as our regulations have outlined it.
7 And that there may be some resolution to some of the
8 difference, some further discussion later on in the 1999-2000
9 regulatory cycle that would begin this fall as we possibly
10 take on fisheries management. That, when we do fisheries,
11 that there may be some new discussions on how we do C&T.

12
13 So we really haven't resolved any of the issues
14 totally, yet, but I think that there was a lot of good
15 discussion at the working group and I'm not sure that people
16 really felt like it was over.

17
18 And Ida and Sandy, I think, should join in, since
19 they were a very prominent part of that group.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ida.

22
23 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
24 Committee member. I want to make a point of clarification.
25 Although all Councils favored having some form of C&T, they
26 did not all favor how it's being done now. They believed
27 there should be some form of C&T, but that the Regional
28 Councils should have more of a say in how those factors are
29 applied or not applied or what it should be based on.

30
31 And, also, there was a disagreement on -- I
32 personally disagreed with how the analysis or the statement
33 of what each Council said their options were, although they
34 voted in favor of maintaining C&T, they did not mean we want
35 to use those eight factors the way the State of Alaska did it
36 or the way the Federal Board has been doing it up till now.

37
38 So there was lots of discussion and even in the work
39 group, at some point, we weren't listening to each other.
40 And I found that extremely frustrating. And, perhaps,
41 because it's so important for all subsistence users. But
42 it's not a discussion that's ended and certainly Mitch wasn't
43 satisfied. Mitch meaning the Federal Chair, who was a member
44 of the work group, wasn't satisfied that it was a non-answer
45 answer. So I'm sure that we'll be going back to that
46 discussion.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Ida.

49
50 Harry.

1 MR. H. BROWER: Just wondered if any of our
2 members that hadn't been up to speed on this customary and
3 traditional issue determination, could we get a little bit of
4 background on why it is that this issue is up for discussion
5 about this, Helen?

6
7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think that it was
8 because people were dissatisfied with the use of the eight
9 factors. It was a system set up by the State and there has
10 been some dissatisfaction around the State by Council members
11 as well as by staff with use of the eight factors. And there
12 had been enough discussion, over the years, about it that it
13 finally came to a head last year.

14
15 One of the problems is that the different regions
16 have been applying the eight factors differently. For
17 example, the sheep C&T that we made on the North Slope two
18 years ago, the Council recommended giving C&T for some
19 villages that have not hunted sheep very much at all. And we
20 had a lot of discussion about that and why we thought it
21 should happen. In other regions they probably would not have
22 received C&T, they're a little bit more -- they look at those
23 eight factors more literally. And if the eight factors can't
24 be fulfilled then they won't give them C&T. I think there's
25 just been some differences. So there was a feeling that
26 there needed to be more flexibility with the eight factors, I
27 think.

28
29 So it's been a very tough issue. And I have to say,
30 as a staff member, that -- and I think this was probably felt
31 by all the staff who were in that meeting, and I don't know
32 about the working group, but it was one of the most
33 disturbing contentious meetings I've been to. It was very,
34 very difficult, so I don't -- I know it's not over.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Sandy.

37
38 MR. RABINOWITCH: I would just add that I
39 share the thoughts that Helen just made. The discussion, I
40 think, was polarized -- well, I don't know if polarized is
41 the right word or not, but there were viewpoints at very far
42 ends of the spectrum on many parts of the issue. And it was,
43 I think, clear from the first meeting that it wasn't going to
44 be easy and I think, basically, the work is not done. I
45 think people will want to -- I think we kind of stalled out
46 and, you know, a good review, I think, was accomplished. I
47 think it's clear that different Councils look at the issue
48 differently. Some think C&T is great and some think it's
49 terrible. And there was a lot of discussion about that. I
50 personally kind of characterized it as did people think C&T

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1 determinations were a friend and they were helpful and
2 protective or were they an enemy and did they hurt
3 subsistence? And I think both view were in the room each
4 time.

5

6 So I think we sort of just stalled out for now. This
7 is my own view. And I would imagine that there will be
8 request probably from many areas to come back and look at the
9 question some more. So I think we kind of stayed in the same
10 place and -- but we're bound to come back to it.

11

12 I'll stop there.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you. Any questions?
15 Brower, Gordon Brower.

16

17 MR. G. BROWER: You mentioned concern about
18 the eight factors that make a weight on a C&T determination.
19 Also, did you mention clumping multiple species and that was
20 an issue as well?

21

22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh (affirmative).

23

24 MR. G. BROWER: I would just like to say from
25 my own point of view that clumping them altogether, I don't
26 know if it diminishes the view of one, when you're doing a
27 C&T on one species versus a multiple species. Just like your
28 challenge from the Sierra [sic] Club, if these C&Ts have
29 within them testimony for each animal that C&Ts on an
30 individual basis for a species would be better, unless the
31 C&T for multiple species contain all of that within one.

32

33 I just wanted to say that.

34

35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Helen.

38

39 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Could I respond to
40 Gordon's comment? I think that's a really good comment and I
41 think the intention was -- has been to not to diminish the
42 importance of any one species, but to integrate them, because
43 the feeling is that when you go hunting -- I mean, when
44 Natives hunt it's opportunistic, so that even though they may
45 go hunting thinking they're going to get a caribou, if
46 something else -- if they have the opportunity to take, they
47 might take that.

48

49 And it often -- it's a lot of the same information
50 that would be in one analysis and so rather than having

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1 different analyses, you might have one analysis about a
2 community talking about the people, their sharing, their
3 customary and traditional uses. And the have, perhaps, a
4 discussion about each one of the resources underneath there,
5 but it would be an integrated discussion rather than being
6 segmented tonight. I think that's the intention of doing it
7 as a combined analysis, but not to diminish the importance of
8 any one species.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any questions on the C&T
11 report?

12

13 (No audible responses)

14

15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: If not, I want to again
16 welcome Morgan Solomon from the Native Village of Barrow.

17

18 MR. SOLOMON: Wildlife Director for Native
19 Village of Barrow and this is wildlife technician Hector
20 Hopson.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Morgan.
23 We're covering under agenda, there's also a sign-in sheet and
24 if you want to make some testimony or testify on the Federal
25 Subsistence Management Program. We do have a couple of
26 proposal that we'll probably cover later today. We may get
27 done earlier than we thought. The reports are going along
28 fairly well today, so I just wanted to bring you up to day,
29 Morgan, on the agency reports. We're about halfway done.
30 We're done with 7A, we got the Wildlife Department, Fish and
31 Wildlife Service, National Parks, BLM and Alaska Department
32 of Fish and Game and also a wolf relocation report.

33

34 So with that there'll be opportunities to testify
35 from the public or from the Federal agencies or have any
36 questions on the agency reports or comments on the Federal or
37 State agency reports. These briefings are from agency
38 concerns or issues related to subsistence use and wildlife
39 resources on the North Slope, including wildlife population,
40 their updates and also further reports on all species on the
41 North Slope.

42

43 So with that, if there's no further questions for
44 customary and traditional taskforce update, we'll move on to
45 item 7B, the North Slope Borough Wildlife Department.
46 Charlie Brower is absent, so in place of Charlie will be
47 Taqulik.

48

49 MS. HEPA: I talked with Charlie, he's
50 unavailable at all today and he should be available tomorrow,

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1 but if you want I could go ahead and give you an update on
2 some of the topics we're working on. Or we could do it when
3 he gets back tomorrow morning.

4

5 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

8

9 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, you made a
10 comment that we're moving right along with the agenda. I
11 recommend that we adjourn early today in order to be fair
12 with the public because we did announce a two day meeting.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: You do not want to adjourn
15 or you want to adjourn?

16

17 MR. UPICKSOUN: No, we cannot adjourn, we
18 announced a two day meeting. I recommend that we adjourn
19 early today and continue tomorrow.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Gordon.
22 Very well, we'll take that up.

23

24 Charlie will be available tomorrow, what's the wish
25 of the Council or do you want to hear the wildlife report?
26 Perhaps if he joins us tomorrow we can get some further
27 comments from him, if you have a brief report, Taqulik, we'd
28 appreciate it at this time from the North Slope Borough
29 Wildlife Department. Again, we'll hear from Charlie Brower
30 tomorrow and make further comments. So, Taqulik, Deputy
31 Director for North Slope Borough Wildlife Department.

32

33 Taqulik, the floor is yours.

34

35 MS. HEPA: Thank you. For the record, my
36 name is Taqulik Hepa, again, North Slope Borough Department
37 of Wildlife Management. I'm not sure what Charlie was going
38 to present, but I'll just go over some of the projects that
39 our department is working on currently and what we have
40 planned for the spring.

41

42 The first thing I'd like to talk about is about the
43 whale census. As you know in 2002 at the International
44 Whaling Commission we need to present an a population
45 estimate for the bowhead whale. And this spring we had
46 planned to do a full bowhead whale census to get a count, and
47 with past years of experience we've figured or in part of our
48 methods was it takes approximately three years to get a good
49 count, due to weather and ice conditions. And since the ice
50 pack didn't come in this year and due to unstable ice

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1 conditions we're not going to do a full whale census this
2 spring.

3
4 But, instead, we're going to go and do a smaller
5 scale census to test new techniques on counting bowhead
6 whales. And we'll be training personnel that will be used
7 next year with these new techniques that we'll be using to do
8 the count of the bowhead whale.

9
10 This May at the International Whaling Commission,
11 again, the IWC, the issue that will be talked about will be
12 the beluga whales. We have members from our department that
13 are putting reports together. We have Todd who will be doing
14 the contaminants report. Robert doing some on the movements
15 of the beluga whale, since they had put the satellite tag on
16 the beluga. So they'll be presenting, I know, those two
17 reports, and there will be additional reports that will be
18 presented and issues that will be discussed.

19
20 One of the major issues that will be discussed that
21 the Alaska Beluga Whale Committee should be prepared to fight
22 against is the Cook Inlet issue, you know, with the people
23 overharvesting in the Anchorage area. So that will probably
24 come up in the beluga whale commissioners that are present
25 will be trying to fight that fight.

26
27 Another project that we're working on is the
28 Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd. We have nine years of data that
29 we collected through satellite collars. It's a cooperative
30 project between our department, the Alaska Department of Fish
31 and Game and BLM. And I guess the push now is, instead of
32 collecting more information, since we have nine years data
33 that needs to be analyzed, the push now is to go and to
34 figure out what does all that information mean. And working
35 with UAF they're going back and analyzing the information.
36 And the results -- the little information that they did get
37 results from they're finding very interesting.

38
39 The Teshekpuk Caribou Herd is used by seven out of
40 eight communities, all except for Kaktovik, so it's a very
41 important herd to the residents of the North Slope. And with
42 NPR-A opening up for oil and gas leasing, the results that
43 come up from the analysis will be very important in helping
44 us make decisions and stipulations toward the oil and gas
45 leasing.

46
47 Then we have our contaminants work that we're working
48 on and Dr. O'Hara, from our department, who is our research
49 biologist, continues to be working on some contaminants work.
50 And there's a couple of projects that he's working on and one

1 of them is collecting samples of marine mammals from the
2 different villages across the Slope and looking at the
3 different contaminant levels in those resources. And right
4 now those results are being analyzed and written up into a
5 report and we should have a draft report of those in June.

6

7 Another one is another program that's funded by the
8 Federal government, which is CFAR, and picked different
9 communities in Canada, Alaska and Russia to look at -- two
10 communities within those different nations, I guess. Like
11 Canada, there's two communities in Canada, two in Alaska that
12 the picked and two in Russia. And to look at -- to train
13 people in the communities to collect samples and then to send
14 them to the project investigators, which is Dr. Dave Norton
15 and Pat O'Hara, to look at not just marine mammals but all
16 subsistence species and the contaminant levels in there. So
17 we have that ongoing.

18

19 I guess while Geoff was gone, we took -- we helped
20 him out doing some licensing, giving Alaska hunting licenses
21 to different people and did some tagging of wolves and
22 wolverines for the people that harvested here locally. We
23 were real glad to help him out while he was recovering in
24 Hawaii.

25

26 Then Fenton and I with the North Slope Borough and
27 the Fish and Game Management Committee, Fenton and Elijah
28 Attugana, we attended a meeting in Kotzebue on their Musk-ox
29 Management Plan they're working for. We gave them an update
30 on how the North Slope Musk-ox Harvest Plan works on the
31 North Slope and gave them some pointers and tips, you know,
32 that has helped us with our harvest plan.

33

34 I think that's it. Do you guys have any questions?

35

36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Taqulik. Any
37 questions for Taqulik? Helen.

38

39 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The two communities that
40 were in this Russia, Canada and Alaska.....

41

42 MS. HEPA: In Alaska the two communities that
43 we picked are on the North Slope and it's Nuiqsut and Point
44 Hope.

45

46 MR. UPICKSOUN: Is the Budget Committee being
47 nice to you guys?

48

49 MS. HEPA: Yes.

50

1 MR. UPICKSOUN: I heard them discussing --
2 the assembly had -- quite interesting.

3
4 MS. HEPA: Yeah. And I'd like to thank --
5 that reminds me. Fenton had got up at the North Slope
6 Borough Assembly Workshop that they had in February, along
7 with other subsistence hunters and whalers from the North
8 Slope to speak on behalf of our department expressing the
9 work that we do and how our project, you know, are for the
10 people and for the subsistence hunters of the North Slope.
11 And Fenton got up on behalf of this Committee here and talked
12 how our department has helped, you know, with this committee
13 and with the Fish and Game Management Committee.

14
15 But due to the people that were there to give
16 comments, the Budget Committee re-met and they reevaluated
17 our department and we've got good ratings now. Now, we're
18 essential.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. Thank you.

21
22 MS. HEPA: Thanks to people like Fenton and
23 the other people that were there to give testimony.

24
25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Was your budget cut at
26 all? I know you managed to survive, but did they cut it?

27
28 MS. HEPA: Like the Mayor said, it's still in
29 the early stages and we haven't heard back from them. But I'
30 sure very soon that we'll be hearing back from the Committee
31 to get further instructions. And then from there it'll go
32 from the Budget Committee and be presented to the Assembly.
33 And the Assembly has the authority to make the decision.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Taqulik.
36 If there's no further questions. Mr. Solomon.

37
38 MR. SOLOMON: Can I make a comment on
39 (indiscernible - away from microphone) I have a very
40 important announcement for this group.

41
42 MR. C. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Charlie.

45
46 MR. C. HOPSON: We can recognize the Native
47 Village on any other report in I.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Are you going to be
50 available all day or all afternoon?

1 MR. SOLOMON: No.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, we have room for any
4 other reports that are not written so we can insert Native
5 Village of Barrow as part of the agenda, as recommended by
6 Charlie. Any objections to adding the Native Village of
7 Barrow on the reports under 7I?

8

9 MR. UPICKSOUN: No objection.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: No objection. Morgan,
12 you're on the agenda.

13

14 MS. HEPA: Okay. Just another thing, since
15 we have Fish and Wildlife Service people here, but during the
16 month of January several polar bear patrols in the villages
17 of Point Lay -- well, Wainwright and Kaktovik had shut down,
18 and Point Hope, due to lack of polar bear sightings, but this
19 last couple of weeks we've had calls from Point Lay,
20 Wainwright, Point Hope and Kaktovik of increased -- the polar
21 bears are coming back, so we restarted the polar bear
22 deterrence programs in each of those communities.

23

24 We have the polar bear patrol personnel reporting to
25 use weekly the number of bears sighted and deterred from each
26 of the communities. And at the end of the season our
27 department will combine these and send a report to the Fish
28 and Wildlife Service.

29

30 And then another announcement, too. Our North Slope
31 Borough Fish and Game Management Committee is going to be
32 meeting March 2 and 3 here in Barrow at the ASRC conference
33 room.

34

35 MR. C. HOPSON: I have a question.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Charlie.

38

39 MR. C. HOPSON: Do you have the Russians
40 counting the whale fish on their part of there this coming
41 year?

42

43 MS. HEPA: Yeah. That information or that
44 project is still continuing. We just got additional funding
45 from the National Park Service to fund that project. And
46 they are sighting whales. And part of that project, what
47 they're planning to do is to make a tag to be, you know,
48 harpooned onto one of the bowhead whales to see where they
49 go. You know, do they always go to the Russian side or
50 sometimes do they come through the Alaskan side, so we can

1 learn more about the movements of the bowhead whales.

2

3 MR. C. HOPSON: You said you're scaling down
4 on counting the whales this spring, poor ice conditions, who
5 determined the ice condition because you're scaling down on
6 the count here? I think this is the best year to count, we
7 have good ice conditions out there.

8

9 MS. HEPA: There was another factor that
10 played in that, was with the Budget Committee and we weren't
11 sure, you know, what the role of our department was going to
12 be by the coming June 30. There was that reason and we
13 weren't sure what the ice conditions were like, and since
14 then we've had Harry and Craig and others go out to look at
15 the ice and it was getting kind of too close to the time to
16 prepare for the whale census, so we decided to do a small
17 scale census this spring and then for the following year to
18 do a full census.

19

20 MR. C. HOPSON: Okay. Thank you.

21

22 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

25

26 MR. G. BROWER: Is that tag, is that a radio
27 collar that they're going to be following, either aircraft or
28 satellite?

29

30 MS. HEPA: It's a satellite, it'll be through
31 the satellite and it's an instrument about this big and right
32 now they're working on ways to make it stay longer in the
33 whale. We have the people from Telonics (ph), they're the
34 people that made the tag, they're doing some experimenting
35 with the blubber samples that we sent to them to make sure
36 that tag stays in for a longer period of time. And probably
37 by maybe this summer we'll have that done. The people from
38 the Russian side harpoon that tag into the whale.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Terry.

41

42 MR. TAGAROOK: Just a comment. Several years
43 back, when we caught our whale, there was a radio in the
44 whale and it had Russian writing on it. And we made sure it
45 was turned off so they won't monitor us.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MS. HEPA: How long ago was this?

50

1 MR. TAGAROOK: That was when my brother was
2 still alive.

3
4 MS. HEPA: Oh, very interesting.

5
6 MR. TAGAROOK: He said that was our Russian
7 radio collar or radio whatever that was found in the whale.

8
9 MS. HEPA: Uh-huh.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Any further
12 questions for Taqulik?

13
14 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Char.....

17
18 MR. H. BROWER: I'm not Charlie.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Charlie's brother, Harry.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MR. H. BROWER: Anyway, Taqulik, I just
25 wanted to further on that radio work that Telonics (ph) is
26 working on. They're trying to condense the radio and extend
27 the battery life. It's -- that's part of the work that
28 they're doing right now. Just for the communities'
29 information.

30
31 MR. UPICKSOUN: I have one.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

34
35 MR. UPICKSOUN: Taqulik, what year did you
36 say the IWC was going to meet, the year 2000 or this year?

37
38 MS. HEPA: They meet every year and this
39 spring their discussions will be concentrated on small, which
40 would be the beluga whale.

41
42 MR. UPICKSOUN: This year?

43
44 MS. HEPA: Yeah, this May, uh-huh. And
45 members of the Alaska Beluga Whale Committee will be present
46 there, as well as North Slope Borough personnel, like Tom --
47 Dr. Albert and Todd and Robert.

48
49 MR. UPICKSOUN: The full commission or just
50 members of the beluga commission?

00050

1 MR. H. BROWER: Gordon, it's Executive
2 Committee for the Alaska Beluga Whale Committee, they're
3 planning to attend the International Whaling Commission
4 meeting.

5
6 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay. So I'll try to may
7 Danny, Jr. (indiscernible)

8
9 MR. H. BROWER: And we'll be hearing more of
10 that during or Fish and Game Management Committee meeting,
11 too.

12
13 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any further questions for
16 Taqulik?

17
18 (No audible responses)

19
20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: It's getting close to
21 lunch, anybody buying lunch?

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I don't see anybody raise
26 their hands. We're getting close to lunchtime. I think
27 we're moving right along here. We'll be done with the
28 reports maybe after lunch, huh? I don't think we can try and
29 tackle that in the next 20 minutes or so.

30
31 Okay. Thank you, Taqulik for standing in for
32 Charlie.

33
34 MS. HEPA: Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: At this time I'd like to
37 entertain a motion for a recess and we'll commence after
38 lunch at probably 1:00 o'clock, 1:15.

39
40 MR. UPICKSOUN: 1:30.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: 1:30?

43
44 MR. UPICKSOUN: Yeah.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, recess till 1:30.

47
48 (Off record)

49
50 (On record)

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:wait for Harry and
2 Gordon to get back, I'll just go ahead and call the meeting
3 back to order.

4
5 We got done, pretty much, with 7A and 7B, agency
6 reports. We have a handful of agency reports yet to do this
7 afternoon. We'll probably go up to 7I today and maybe
8 commence early in the morning to deal with just the
9 proposals, unless the Council want to discuss that as we get
10 closer to the end of the day. So we're going to get done
11 with most of the agency reports this afternoon.

12
13 I don't know if Sverre will make it, but have you
14 heard anything Geoff?

15
16 MR. CARROLL: He's not going to be able to
17 make it.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. So we'll scratch
20 Sverre's name off of the list and you'll cover for the ADF&G.
21 With that, any other changes or any announcements? Okay. If
22 you take any breaks here, please take advantage of looking at
23 all the new things here at the cultural center, it's quite
24 amazing to me or quite awesome to see all this collection all
25 in one room, one building. I didn't know the main thing in
26 there about the whaling is open or -- the doors are closed,
27 but it might be. Feel free to walk around it. The library
28 is also connected to the building, so please take advantage
29 of viewing some of the items here.

30
31 With that, I'll turn the floor over to Anne Morkill,
32 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Anne will discuss reports
33 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Anne.

34
35 MS. MORKILL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I'm
36 going to have Greg give you the staff report.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, Greg will do the
39 staff report, okay. Good afternoon, Greg.

40
41 MR. McCLELLAN: Good afternoon, Fenton.
42 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, thank you, Council. Let me
43 introduce myself. I missed the introductions this morning,
44 but my name is Greg McClellan, I'm the subsistence
45 coordinator for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and it's
46 also a shared position with the other refuges based out of
47 Fairbanks, Yukon Flats and Kanuti Refuge. So thanks for
48 having us.

49
50 I just have a couple of quick notes to bring up. I

1 guess the first one at the village concerns portion this
2 morning, Fenton had mentioned about the issuance of the
3 musk-ox permits up at Kaktovik, and just kind of to reiterate
4 what Anne stated at that time, is that we'd like to defer to
5 the village of Kaktovik as far as how they would like to see
6 how best see the musk-ox permits distributed. And we'll just
7 plan on setting up a meeting with the Village Council in the
8 next month or two and try to discuss that and we'll
9 definitely work with them, however they want to work it best
10 for them.

11

12 Then the other thing I wanted to mention was in the
13 minutes from the last meeting Fenton had had a question about
14 the Porcupine Caribou Herd that was in and out faster than
15 usual. And was wondering why the reasons. And I checked
16 with Fran Mauer (ph) who's the caribou biologist for the
17 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and he indicated that from
18 monitoring both satellite and radio telemetry collars from
19 the Porcupine Caribou Herd that they did enter Alaska calving
20 grounds this past spring on the week of May 11th, through the
21 17th, which is a little early. Normally they arrive during
22 the week of May 20th to 25th from the historical data from
23 the radio telemetries, that's when they normally arrive.

24

25 Fran had noted that the snow depth was generally
26 below average over a broad region in Northern Alaska and
27 Canada during the winter of '97-98, and that likely
28 contributed to the early arrival time for caribou. And Fran
29 had also mentioned is normal when the caribou herd comes
30 early to the coast then they normally leave early from the
31 calving grounds back into Brooks Range. And, again, that was
32 the case that last year they moved during that last week of
33 June when other times there'll be caribou on the calving
34 grounds into July and also into August.

35

36 So their refuge from the radio telemetry data had the
37 same observation that you did and we don't have a definite
38 answer for why it happened. We think it was the snow depth,
39 the light snow depth, that had something to do with it.

40

41 But those were the main things I wanted to bring up
42 and I'd be more than happy to try and answer any questions
43 that anybody might have.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any questions for Greg?

46

47 (No audible responses)

48

49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, I'm going to go
50 ahead and make a comment on -- or a question on the

00053

1 recreational users are at the Kongakut River at the time or
2 the peak of the caribou went from east to the coastal plane
3 and the camps are situation as such that they're right on the
4 migration route or near there for viewing. Wouldn't there be
5 some interference from that or.....

6

7 MR. McCLELLAN: Well, we don't.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: When we go after them they
10 get spooked or they traveled a long ways and they stopped and
11 were just located, I don't know, maybe 50 or 60 miles from
12 the Kongakut River and that's the area where we can land. Or
13 the extent where they go further west is around Camden Bay or
14 a little bit further west than that. Some cases when we get
15 near the beach and they start running they run about 20
16 miles, 25 miles before they stop, on a couple of the herds
17 we've gone after. That's just one or two boats and I know
18 there's a camp full of lots of floaters or campers based at
19 Kongakut River right at the peak of the migration of the
20 caribou heading west. I wonder if there would be
21 interference or any thoughts of maybe restricting or finding
22 out if there's any impact to those Porcupine Herd that's
23 trying to get to the coast plain.

24

25 MR. McCLELLAN: Uh-huh. What time of year is
26 this?

27

28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Right at the peak of the
29 migration of the Porcupine heading west.

30

31 MR. McCLELLAN: Okay. I guess I can't
32 specifically address the specific area. I can get the
33 information, I'll go back and.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Yeah, you issue the
36 permits out of Fairbanks for the floaters and
37 recreationalists?

38

39 MR. McCLELLAN: Yeah, the permits are issued
40 out of our office in Fairbanks, although overall the
41 commercial permits that have been issued, I do have some
42 information on overall numbers and they've gone down. Like
43 in '89, and this is for all of Arctic Refuge, it's not
44 separated from the North Slope or the south side of the
45 Brooks Range, but we have a figure that we use. Recreational
46 use days and so if one person spends one day on the refuge
47 then that's considered a use day, but back in '89 the numbers
48 were at about 5,000 use days, and this last year, '97, is
49 what we have the most recent information. The number is down
50 to about 3,000.

1 So overall them recreational use on the refuge has
2 declined over the last 10 years, a gradual decline. So
3 that's overall, but as far as specifically the recreational
4 use on the Kongakut River, I don't have that information. I
5 can get the information and report it back at the next
6 meeting or send it to you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I've had the opportunity
9 to fly with Roger Kay, who is a pilot for Fish and Wildlife
10 Service.....

11

12 MR. McCLELLAN: Uh-huh.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:he took us to
15 Kongakut and we took his invitation and flew around with him
16 and take a look at the either the debris or trash, just the
17 impact we're seeing a lot of people with camps right around
18 there.

19 So thank you.

20

21 MR. McCLELLAN: Uh-huh.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

24

25 MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Are they
26 issuing permits for recreational -- to people for
27 recreational purposes without taking into consideration the
28 subsistence hunters?

29

30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I don't know, Gordon,
31 I.....

32

33 MR. McCLELLAN: Yeah, we do, we take that
34 into.....

35

36 MR. UPICKSOUN: Do you have a policy
37 regarding issuing permits that affect subsistence hunters?

38

39 MR. McCLELLAN: Yeah, Gordon, every time that
40 we issue a special use permit, which what this is, to
41 recreational -- an organized recreational guide that's issued
42 a permit, we go through the -- it's called a Section 810
43 process, but we go through a process to look at to see if we
44 feel that this would impact subsistence resources or
45 subsistence uses. So, yes, we do do it.

46

47 MR. UPICKSOUN: So the concern regarding the
48 effect of recreational user has on the subsistence hunter
49 affecting the migratory pattern is right. Their concern is
50 right, because that shouldn't be happening.

1 MR. McCLELLAN: Uh-huh. Yeah, it's something
2 we definitely need to look at and, like I said, I'm not
3 specifically familiar with the -- with what's going on at the
4 Kongakut River, but I can.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: (Indiscernible -
7 simultaneous speech) reading about the sports and the river
8 rafters on the peak of the migrating caribou.

9
10 MR. UPICKSOUN: And what happened there, we
11 don't want to happen in user conflict where firearms were
12 used and there was a lot of people that were affected by user
13 conflict. There's no reason for it to happen up here.

14
15 MR. McCLELLAN: Yeah. I mean, it's something
16 that we don't -- definitely don't want to happen. You know,
17 I guess, the refuge doesn't feel that there is a conflict,
18 but we'll definitely look into Fenton's concerns and.....

19
20 MR. UPICKSOUN: I can see their concerns when
21 they boat a long ways to their regular hunting area and find
22 out that the migratory pattern of the caribou has been
23 affected to a point where they travel all that distance and
24 the recreational users have affected their pattern, their
25 migratory pattern.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you. Gordon.

28
29 MR. G. BROWER: Since you guys are on that
30 subject. Having dealt with sport hunting guides in Happy
31 Valley, having had to issue permits for those guides and how
32 they conduct business on the North Slope and having to apply
33 costal management program policies of the North Slope
34 Borough, I haven't yet seen a permit for floaters, sports
35 use, in that area.

36
37 Generally we usually get an application from a sport
38 hunting guide and they have been referred by the agency who
39 they're getting their -- either their permits to shoot a
40 caribou or whatnot, other permits, land use permits, and it's
41 required to get North Slope Borough permits to be out there
42 so that we can enforce our policies and even to a point, if
43 they're disrupting subsistence, because we have subsistence
44 policies, that we're able to close them down.

45
46 So if you do have people that you do issue permits to
47 out there, if it's something that -- and I think it is, I
48 think it's something that the North Slope Borough has to
49 permit as well. Just like to bring that out.

1 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mike. Wait. For the
4 record, before you get started, Mike Patkotak, a Barrow
5 representative is here this afternoon, so welcome, Mike.

6
7 MR. PATKOTAK: Thank you. I know the
8 permitting offices are, what, 500 miles from here, but being
9 that it affects subsistence users, has any policy ever been
10 considered to send notices of permits issued to the areas
11 that are affected or the people that are affected or
12 subsistence user areas that are affected? And if not, it
13 should be seriously considered.

14
15 In any user period, I know that there are peaked
16 times of usage of these recreational users, so to speak, and
17 to limit them to a certain number within that week or certain
18 weeks or whatever open calendar that you have. And not only
19 to notify the user area affected by the central offices and
20 the Federal Subsistence Advisory Board, I think, would be a
21 good policy to consider.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Mike.
24 Greg.

25
26 MR. McCLELLAN: Yeah, just to address your
27 question, Michael. The Fish and Wildlife Service doesn't
28 have a policy as far as gathering public input on issuance of
29 these special use permits, but we annually record the
30 information from the people that had the permittees, whether
31 they're registered guides or air taxi operators. And it has
32 the information on how many people they took out, where they
33 went, what time that of the year that they went and what
34 resources or activity they participated in and that
35 information, you know, we freely give out. We have an annual
36 narrative, which is kind of a summary of all the activities
37 in the Arctic Refuge every calendar year and that information
38 is within that narrative, so that information is available.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Mike.
41 Ben.

42
43 MR. B. HOPSON: Just wanted to comment, too.
44 Anaktuvuk had a similar user conflict with the sportsmen,
45 especially in our fall caribou hunting time. There's all
46 these sportsmen that are in this wide area north of Anaktuvuk
47 on State lands and we're always seeing, you know, just when
48 the caribou migration is about to start we get a whole slug
49 of sportsmen in. We seeing the caribou shifted around with
50 all this activity going on up north.

1 But then what Fenton was saying Kongakut is way over
2 here by the Canada/U.S. Border.

3

4 MR. McCLELLAN: It's near there, yeah.

5

6 MR. B. HOPSON: Yeah. I wonder if there's
7 other alternative rivers for rafters to use, like, during
8 this critical time and then probably allow them to use
9 Kongakut at a later date?

10

11 MR. McCLELLAN: Yeah. Well, there's several
12 rivers that are rafted on the refuge.

13

14 MR. B. HOPSON: Yeah. Because that's what
15 our elders are always saying, if you are getting in the way
16 of the path of the migration route, you're going to shift the
17 caribou around.

18

19 MR. McCLELLAN: Uh-huh.

20

21 MR. B. HOPSON: It's what the sensitivity is.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Ben. Any more
24 questions for Greg?

25

26 (No audible responses)

27

28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Greg.

29

30 MR. McCLELLAN: Uh-huh.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Anne, did you have
33 anything else or.....

34

35 MS. MORKILL: No.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, good, thank you.
38 That's pretty much it, Greg?

39

40 MR. McCLELLAN: Yes, thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you. All
43 right. National Park Service, Steve and maybe your friend,
44 Sandy. Oh, it'll be Steve, okay. This is the report from
45 the National Park Service.

46

47 MR. ULVI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try
48 to keep this to a couple of hours. Just kidding, just
49 kidding. First of all, looking back at the minutes I see --
50 I just wanted to remind you that Ben Hopson was reappointed

1 by this Commission to the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
2 Resource Commission, so his term would be middle of October
3 '98 to the middle of October of 2001, unless you act
4 otherwise. And we're happy to have Ben reappointed.
5

6 Secondly, I'm glad Mike is here. I can see looking
7 at the minutes from last September that Mike asked a question
8 about information on how SRC appointments are made. And I
9 don't know -- the minutes don't reflect it, but I don't
10 whether the Park Service people that were here answered your
11 questions in a sidebar or whether you still had some
12 questions about that or not. I could either address those
13 with you or if there are other people, I could give a real
14 quick and dirty run down of how that happens, whatever would
15 help you.
16

17 MR. PATKOTAK: They were pretty well answered
18 in summary, but the booklet on more information that was
19 going to be sent to me was never sent to me on how the
20 application process is formally done. And that information
21 was going to be sent to me, but I never did receive anything.
22

23 MR. ULVI: Okay, Mike.....
24

25 MR. PATKOTAK: But I understand, by summary,
26 of what the process is.
27

28 MR. ULVI: Okay. Well, if you would like,
29 Mike, I can get with you and then maybe I can ascertain
30 exactly what might help you, because there isn't a booklet or
31 anything on the process, but I could copy ANILCA or whatever
32 it is you need, so I'll be glad to do that.
33

34 MR. PATKOTAK: Well, then maybe -- if that's
35 the case, if there's nothing written, maybe something should
36 be developed for the general public in terms of how this
37 information should be brought to the public for general
38 purposes for those interested in getting involved, because as
39 time goes on there's more and more people getting involved,
40 wanting to know, but information being unavailable.
41

42 MR. ULVI: Well, Mr. Chairman, I understand
43 what you're saying, I could get with you on a coffee break or
44 something. The information is available and it's just that
45 the appointing authorities are the Governor and Secretary and
46 three Regional Councils, like yours, so those interests,
47 those people come through those groups. The Park Service
48 doesn't appoint anybody to the SRC or anything. So I can get
49 with you on a break, but if there's anything else, any ideas
50 you have about how we could attract more people or something,

1 I'd be glad to hear those, I'd be very interested in those.

2

3 And I wanted to mention that there is a continuing
4 Dall sheep study in Gates of the Arctic around Anaktuvuk Pass
5 and we talked about that for a couple of years and I believe
6 -- I don't have the numbers or anything, but I believe there
7 were 14 sheep or so collared around Anaktuvuk. And there was
8 a recent meeting with the City Council there last week about
9 replacing some collars from sheep that had died of natural
10 causes. And that study continues, I think it's on the books
11 for another couple of years and it has to do with trying to
12 understand how local populations of sheep move, how far they
13 move in that area and those kinds of things. And so I wanted
14 to bring that up to you again.

15

16 The Subsistence Resource Commission for Gates of the
17 Arctic National Park is tentatively planning to meet in the
18 middle of April, we're trying to nail that down right now.
19 It'll probably be in Fairbanks, depending on the Commission
20 members' needs and I just wanted to bring up for your
21 interest that Charlie Brower, more or less, resigned and
22 Taqulik Hepa, here, has been appointed by the Governor to
23 fill that seat, so she's now on the Gates of the Arctic
24 Subsistence Resource Commission.

25

26 I brought up in the past that we are working on a
27 subsistence management plan with the Subsistence Resource
28 Commission and that plan is to a nearly final stage. And at
29 this April meeting we'll be going over the plan once more
30 with the Commission and making any changes that need to be
31 made and then it will be going out for public review. So at
32 that time we'll send copies of that plan to your Council, as
33 well as the other two Councils.

34

35 So I wanted to ask, shall I just be sure that a copy
36 be sent to each Council member, including your alternates?

37

38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, that would be good,
39 Steve.

40

41 MR. ULVI: Okay. All right. And I guess the
42 last thing, and I don't really know whether you want to
43 change the minutes or not, I was a little slow on the uptake
44 this morning, but I see on page five from your September
45 minutes at the bottom. I just wanted to make one correction.
46 I don't know if Barb wants to change the minutes or not, but
47 there is an inaccurate statement there. The bottom of page
48 five, and that is that Paul Hunter, if in fact he said this,
49 it's not quite accurate. Said the NPS supports -- let's see
50 that's not it.

1 UNIDENTIFIED: Where you at?

2

3 MR. ULVI: Bottom of page five. It says, the
4 NPS supports the incidental State programs, speaking about
5 musk-ox harvest, that would apply in the preserve as well as
6 the State and private lands around Anaktuvuk Pass. That
7 State musk-ox permit hunt in GMU 26(A), as it stands right
8 now, that Geoff administers, does not apply to any park
9 lands, and that includes the park and the preserve, so it's a
10 minor clarification there, but since we are going to be
11 talking about musk-ox and the plan and everything else, I
12 just wanted to be sure that was clear.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. It'll probably be
15 back on the table then.

16

17 MR. ULVI: Yeah. And, Mr. Chairman, that's
18 all I have.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Any questions for
21 Steve with the Park Service from the Council?

22

23 MR. B. HOPSON: Fenton.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ben.

26

27 MR. B. HOPSON: Steve, how much more studying
28 are you going to do with that sheep collaring program around
29 Anaktuvuk?

30

31 MR. ULVI: Ben, my understanding is, I
32 believe they plan to go for a couple of more years with that
33 and then feel they would have enough relocation data to be
34 able to make some statements about how far some of those
35 populations that are local to the community there, how far
36 they move in winter and summer and between different ranges.
37 So they got a good start on it. And my sense was a couple of
38 more years and -- I wasn't at the meeting last week in the
39 community, but my understanding was there was some concerns
40 about replacing those three collars on the sheep that had
41 died from natural causes. And some concerns that were
42 expressed, but my understanding was they hoped to run a
43 couple of more years with about that many collars out, about
44 17 collars out.

45

46 MR. B. HOPSON: Okay.

47

48 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

1 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, you asked
2 National Park Service at our last meeting about numbers.
3 When will they be comfortable -- what numbers they will be
4 comfortable with before they allow a hunt for Anaktuvuk Pass?
5 What's the number the State is comfortable with, the Federal
6 agencies are comfortable with so they can allow a hunt for
7 Anaktuvuk Pass?

8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Gordon, I'm going
10 to have to defer that to when we get to the proposal
11 tomorrow, I think that will be a lengthy discussion in order
12 to work on that Proposal 63. So we can take that up
13 tomorrow.

14
15 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay. Thank you.

16
17 MR. B. HOPSON: Is that regarding musk-ox?

18
19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Musk-ox. Yeah, just
20 getting back to the minutes, Steve, the bottom there. I
21 think we may just have to bring back on the table that NPS
22 supported incidental program that would apply in the State
23 and private around Anaktuvuk Pass, because I see the
24 boundaries are right in the outskirts, some of that white,
25 that's within the preserve, isn't it? It look like, huh,
26 right around Anaktuvuk Pass or surrounding Anaktuvuk Pass,
27 some private lands or State lands?

28
29 MR. ULVI: Mr. Chairman, in general terms, as
30 you -- around Anaktuvuk Pass, of course is ASRC and Nunamiut
31 Corporation lands within the boundaries of the park and then
32 as you go north on the Anaktuvuk River there you go into
33 State and BLM lands outside the park boundary. The preserve
34 is up on the Upper Itkillik to the northeast.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Perhaps at a break
37 or something you can write an amendment or something that we
38 can probably bring on the table to correct the minutes to
39 state.

40
41 MR. ULVI: Well, Mr. Chairman, if we could
42 just take "the preserve" out of that sentence.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: It would apply.....

45
46 MR. UPICKSOUN: The language still wouldn't
47 be right if you just take "preserve" out.

48
49 MR. ULVI: So the language that would come
50 out would be "the preserve as well as"

00062

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, okay. We'll put it
2 back on the table for consideration.

3

4 All right. Thank you, Steve. Any questions for
5 National Park Service from the Council?

6

7 (No audible responses)

8

9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Hearing none.

10

11 MR. UPICKSOUN: We accept his late amendment.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, we got one question
14 from Ben and possibly Harry on the.....

15

16 MR. B. HOPSON: Steve, what's the latest on
17 the Hunting Management Plan that SRC has been working on?

18

19 MR. ULVI: You know, Ben, that -- and I
20 probably didn't cover that, I apologize for that. That is
21 part of the whole Subsistence Management Plan, and I won't go
22 into the whole history of that or anything. For people who
23 have been involved with the Subsistence Resource Commission,
24 with parks that allow subsistence, for a long time there's
25 been a difficulty with trying to put together a plan that
26 comes from the local residents to help describe the way that
27 subsistence should be managed, especially subsistence
28 hunting, soon subsistence fishing, probably. And so we have
29 this Subsistence Management Plan that several park areas have
30 jointly created with their Subsistence Commissions. And this
31 one is nearing the final completion to go out to the public.

32

33 And within that plan will be your hunting plan, but
34 it's a lot broader than that, it addresses a lot of other
35 issues and it'll be a good resource for all of the members
36 with all of the correspondence and all of the issues over the
37 years and it'll change over time. And so we'll make a
38 reduced version of that workbook and send that out to the
39 public because we have to allow the public to review plans
40 like that.

41

42 MR. B. HOPSON: That was (indiscernible -
43 away from microphone) percent of our work group, huh?

44

45 MR. ULVI: No.

46

47 MR. B. HOPSON: No?

48

49 MR. ULVI: No. Your work, the Commission's
50 work is part of -- is the hunting plan within this whole

1 Subsistence Management Plan and it's all be developed,
2 basically, upon all the work that the Subsistence Resource
3 Commission has done. So we haven't amended anything, we've
4 kind of filled in some of the gaps that the Commission agreed
5 with some more information about the communities, things like
6 that.

7
8 MR. B. HOPSON: Because I knew the SRC
9 members and the park staff members were quite distance on
10 some issues, like how you wanted to -- like how the park
11 suggested the top of the peaks of the mountains to be
12 non-subsistence areas. Or that incidental taking of
13 furbearers while you're trapping.

14
15 MR. ULVI: Yeah. No. Two good examples,
16 Ben. Those kinds of issues that were traditional, the
17 traditional use areas for subsistence and the use of firearms
18 under a trapping license in the park, those are to of, I
19 think, about a dozen or a dozen and a half issues, some of
20 which the Park Service and the Commission have agreed on and
21 there's been action by the Secretary or not and some of which
22 we have a difference of opinion, but all of that is in the
23 plan there for you folks and future commissions to continue
24 to work on and to take, you know, the direction you want to
25 take it.

26
27 So, no, we haven't -- all we've done is try to keep
28 those issues up to date and add some more language, like
29 where letters were exchanged, or something has happened or a
30 request was made. Or even where the Regional Council weighed
31 in on something to try to get those sentences in there to try
32 to bring that issue up to date. Those are the only
33 amendments that have really been made, but if an issue is
34 unresolved it's still in there.

35
36 MR. B. HOPSON: Okay.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Ben.
39 Harry had the same question, so thank you.

40
41 MR. ULVI: Okay.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. Any other
44 questions for the Park Service?

45
46 (No audible responses)

47
48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you very much,
49 Steve.

1 Earlier this morning we gave room for Dave Yokel, but
2 I think we'll stick to the schedule we have, we had Alaska
3 Department of Fish and Game unless, Dave, you have to get
4 somewhere?

5
6 MR. YOKEL: No, I'm here for the afternoon,
7 Mr. Chairman.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you. So
10 it'll be Geoff next on the agency report, Alaska Department
11 of Fish and Game, cover for Sverre and also your wildlife
12 conservation.

13
14 Geoff.

15
16 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. Anne is passing out
17 some..... I'm Geoff Carroll, I'm the area wildlife biologist
18 for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

19
20 I'll start out talking about some State musk-ox
21 hunts, I know this is a Federal body, but, you know, I think
22 it'll relate to discussion that you'll have later on Proposal
23 63. And the first issue is that with all the representatives
24 working on the North Slope Musk-ox Harvest Plan did come to
25 an agreement on final wording of that document. And we also
26 agreed that it's an interim document and that we'll work, you
27 know, on a final document that addresses aspects for musk-ox
28 management, in addition to harvesting in following years.

29
30 So at this point the plan is being circulated through
31 the representatives and users groups and I think that Fenton
32 will talk about that more either later today or tomorrow,
33 so.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: It'll be this afternoon.

36
37 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, I don't need to say too
38 much about that right now. I think as part of this
39 continuing musk-ox management process we've been involved in
40 through proposals that were submitted to the Alaska Board of
41 Game, by both the North Slope Borough and the Alaska
42 Department of Fish and Game, they did -- last spring they
43 passed regulation that authorized the Alaska Department of
44 Fish and Game to issue permits to harvest dispersing musk-ox
45 and that move into important caribou migration and hunting
46 areas in Unit 26(A), plus the area around Anaktuvuk Pass,
47 both north and south of the village in 26(A) and in Unit 24.

48
49 After dealing with this regulation for -- well, it's
50 been nine months now, I have a pretty clear idea on how we

1 can be pretty effectively up here. We started out the first
2 instance was, you know, some musk-oxen showed up at Point Lay
3 and it took us a few weeks to get our communication channels
4 down and get the permits issues. Our first attempt that was
5 pretty slow, but since that time we've worked our way through
6 the process twice and it's -- you know, we got the system
7 down pretty well.

8

9 I've attached -- turn back two pages, there's a
10 letter that I sent around to all the City Councils and it
11 sets the steps out pretty clearly on how to go about applying
12 for these musk-ox permits when they move into areas around
13 villages, but basically it's to address the concern that
14 local hunters have about when musk-ox would move into an area
15 and their concern that they're going to disperse caribou away
16 from there. This allows us to issue permits and harvest
17 those musk-oxen. You know, we -- like I said, we've done it
18 a couple of times now, I've got all the forms set up so we
19 can have those permits issued within a couple of days now, it
20 can be a pretty speedy process.

21

22 What's taken place with those permits so far, last
23 summer some musk-oxen showed up near Point Lay and the
24 permits were issued, you know -- I think we had some break
25 downs in communication there. I know I was gone for a while
26 and then Gordon was in Greenland for a while and kind of
27 between the two of us it took probably three weeks to get the
28 permits issued, but I mean, once we did get the word to go
29 ahead and order the, we did have them issued within a couple
30 of days. One musk-oxen was harvested near Point Lay from
31 that hunt.

32

33 Then another instance last fall, a group of musk-oxen
34 moved into the Chipp River area. After consulting with
35 people and the camps in the area, primarily, Arnold Brower,
36 Senior, they didn't really feel at that time that the musk-
37 oxen were affecting the caribou hunting or migrations and
38 didn't really -- you know, there was really no request to
39 issue permits at that time.

40

41 Later in the fall people began contacting the
42 Department with concerns that the musk-oxen would affect the
43 fall migratory movements of caribou, you know, along the
44 Chipp River, so we went ahead and opened the season with an
45 emergency order. The permits were issued, both in Barrow and
46 Atqasuk in early October. The day or like the day after the
47 permits were issued the musk-oxen packed up and left the area
48 and I think lots of people went to look for the, but they
49 just -- I guess they heard about the permits being issued or
50 something, they got the heck out of there. No one ever --

1 you know, I didn't ever have any reports of anyone harvesting
2 any of those.

3

4 So that's kind of a scorecard on our disbursing musk-
5 ox permits. We've issued a couple of them and I think we've
6 gotten a pretty -- we got a pretty streamline process now,
7 but really only harvested one musk-ox last year through that
8 process.

9

10 If anybody has any questions anywhere along the way,
11 just let me know.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any questions thus far for
14 Geoff? I'll get back to number 1 and let you continue
15 reporting number 1 later.

16

17 MR. CARROLL: Okay.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: After the report.

20

21 MR. CARROLL: Okay. Let's see then we have
22 also what's called a Tier II subsistence hunt and that's set
23 up for the area between Nuiqsut and the Dalton Highway. And
24 nine permits were issued and it's a sort of hunt that anyone
25 in the state can apply for, but if you have a history of
26 hunting in that area, you have a better chance of getting a
27 permit. And it turned out that all nine permits went to
28 residents of Nuiqsut.

29

30 Last fall two people from Nuiqsut went ahead and got
31 their musk-oxen and I know Leonard got one of the permits,
32 too, and I think most of the rest of the people will get out
33 there this spring and, at least, try to harvest them, so I'm
34 not quite sure at this point how close the musk-oxen are to
35 town or how difficult it will be to get to them, but they'll
36 have through the month of March to harvest those. And I just
37 want to kind of remind -- if you wouldn't mind passing the
38 word, Leonard, that, you know, people that -- we issued the
39 permits and tags and everything to people last fall, but
40 they'll also need to have a 1999 hunting license to hunt
41 legally this spring, so, anyway, Joy Oyeak (ph) has sold
42 permits or hunting licenses in the past and, I assume, she
43 still has them. I'll need to check with her though, so.....

44

45 The third hunt we have going for musk-ox, and the
46 Board also created a Tier I registration hunt for the area
47 east of the Dalton Highway. The way that was set up was that
48 is that we've been issuing permits in both Nuiqsut and
49 Kaktovik, those are the only places you could get the
50 permits. We've been issuing those since October 1st, and

1 kind of the way it was listed was that the season -- listed
2 in the brochure, the season would be announced and that's
3 dependent on traveling conditions and weather conditions.

4

5 We had such a late fall that it would have been
6 difficult traveling to that area east of the -- between the
7 Haul Road and ANWR from either side, just because the snow
8 was so late in coming and things -- and, you know, lakes
9 freezing up. So it was decided that we wouldn't open the
10 season until this spring.

11

12 Another factor in that, too, was that the -- there's
13 kind of a complicated situation along the Dalton Highway
14 where the -- you know, originally the wording in the Dalton
15 Highway area, in order to protect the North Slope resources,
16 it's against the law for people to drive up the highway and
17 use off-road vehicles to drive off the highway. But the
18 process -- in that wording it also legally makes it --
19 technically makes it illegal for people to drive snow
20 machines from side of the Haul Road to the other and bring
21 whatever they harvest back.

22

23 And so the Board of Game passed a regulation saying
24 that, well, now the people can do that, you can legally --
25 particularly Nuiqsut people. I mean, if you didn't use that
26 word anybody could start outside the Haul Road, drive to the
27 other side, hunt and come back. And so we thought we had
28 that problems solved and the State Law Department decided
29 that the Board of Game had overstepped their authority, they
30 really couldn't change that, it has to be a statute that the
31 Legislature changes.

32

33 You know, there are a lot of things that had to do
34 with hunting and wildlife that the Board of Game can
35 obviously make regulations for, but it turned out that was
36 one where they couldn't legally do that, so we've been
37 seeking a solution to it through the Legislature and I --
38 Taqulik just brought by a bill that is likely to be
39 introduced to the Legislature to solve that problem.

40

41 So anyway, that's why we have an opened out [sic]
42 season, we were hoping that situation would get resolved
43 first. And, also, we were waiting for good traveling
44 conditions. So we're -- I think it's kind of apparent now
45 that even if the law is acted on immediately, you know, very
46 soon, it's not going to be enacted in time to help us with
47 this problem this year, so I think we're going to go ahead --
48 we've consulted with hunters, both in Nuiqsut and Kaktovik
49 and I think the agreement is we'll go ahead an open that
50 season March 1st and it'll be opened for the month of March.

1 The way that one works, is that anyone can pick up
2 permits in Kaktovik or Nuiqsut and then when four musk-oxen
3 are harvested the hunt will be ended, so it's kind of a
4 different way of doing things than the Tier II hunts.

5

6 I believe the permits can be picked up in Kaktovik at
7 the City Offices; is that right, Fenton? And Leonard Lampe
8 has permits in Nuiqsut if anyone is over there and wants to
9 pick one up.

10

11 And one final bit on musk-oxen is that the Department
12 plans to capture and collar 12 musk-oxen in the 26(B) area in
13 April and that will kind of help us -- you know, it'll aid in
14 our ability to accurately census and do composition counts on
15 these animals in the future, so that's about all I got to say
16 on musk-oxen at this point.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Any questions?

19

20 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

23

24 MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes, Geoff, when we were
25 discussing Tier I, Tier II, how do we pacify the sport hunter
26 in regard to the musk-ox around Nuiqsut? It is easy for us
27 to say, all right, we'll go Tier I east of the Dalton
28 because it's legal for us to cross anywhere and it's easy for
29 us to say that at that time. I don't like going Tier I when
30 the subsistence needs of our people haven't been met. But it
31 was easy for us at that time, so in the event that they do
32 pass that legislation making it legal for people to cross
33 back and forth with firearms and we take the Tier I hunts
34 away and hopefully our subsistence needs of Nuiqsut make it
35 all Tier II.

36

37 MR. CARROLL: (Indiscernible - microphone
38 malfunction) and it's going to be held right here in Barrow
39 and we can certainly bring that up. You know, I personally
40 don't like the Tier I hunt and, you know, I'd like to see
41 type of hunt over there.

42

43 MR. UPICKSOUN: A Tier II hunt?

44

45 MR. CARROLL: Well, we'd have to discuss just
46 exactly how we want to do it, you know, it's -- I mean, I
47 think we need to sit down with a working group or something
48 and decided just what work out best over there, but, you
49 know, it's something we can certainly discuss again and work
50 it out again at the Board of Game meeting this coming fall.

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: What's the deadline on
2 that?

3
4 MR. CARROLL: It'll be in August, I believe.
5 In August, I think, is the deadline.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Taqulik.

8
9 MS. HEPA: Hi, Geoff.

10
11 MR. CARROLL: Hi.

12
13 MS. HEPA: It's me. I just thought that
14 maybe it was important for him to mention that with a Tier I
15 hunt that, if I remember correctly, that there's a
16 stipulation in there that if it was harvested -- or when it's
17 harvested and if it was going to be transported out of Unit
18 26 that the trophy value had to be destroyed. Is that true?

19
20 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, that's true. That's true
21 with the Tier II hunts and the Tier I hunts, you know, an
22 attempt to make sure that it is a subsistence hunt and we
23 don't want people coming up and just harvesting them for the
24 horns. Any of them that leave the unit, leave Unit 26, the
25 trophy value will be destroyed.

26
27 MS. HEPA: And my question to that is, what
28 kind of monitoring is done along the Dalton Highway or in
29 areas of Fairbanks where people may fly in to do a Tier I
30 subsist -- I don't know if that's legal or not.

31
32 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, you can't use aircraft in
33 the hunts either.

34
35 MS. HEPA: Okay.

36
37 MR. CARROLL: So that's another thing to keep
38 it local and keep it -- see, the way we set this Tier I hunt
39 up is we try to put as many restrictions on it as we could to
40 discourage people from coming in and using it as a sports
41 hunt. For one, you can't use aircraft, you know. Another,
42 the trophy value will be destroyed, so it kind of takes the
43 motivation away from the sports hunter to do that, you know,
44 not many of those guys are going to hunt when they can't use
45 an airplane. And, you know, if they can't take the horns out
46 they're not much interested in it anyway, so.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Taqulik.

49
50 MS. HEPA: Okay. Thank you.

1 MR. CARROLL: And that's why the permits are
2 only given out in Nuiqsut and Kaktovik, too, you know, so
3 that it kind of limits the number of people that are going to
4 get permits.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Anything else on
7 the question of musk-ox?

8
9 (No audible responses)

10
11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Did you have something
12 further on that number 1?

13
14 MR. CARROLL: Why don't you go ahead, I think
15 you were.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Geoff.
18 Continue with the report.

19
20 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. Are you going to talk
21 about the Musk-ox Plan later or.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: You can say -- if you
24 really want to say something about it right now, go ahead,
25 Geoff, you have the floor.

26
27 MR. CARROLL: Oh, you know. Go ahead.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Geoff was one of the key
32 players in the Harvest Plan, so I'll just take my hat off to
33 you, Geoff, and thank you for your work for the Alaska
34 Department of Fish and Game or with them and also with the
35 Federal and local organizations. That's all I have to say on
36 that.

37
38 MR. CARROLL: Well, Fenton is always modest
39 and gives everybody else credit, but, you know, he's always
40 been the, you know, the backbone of this and he's the one
41 that got this Musk-ox Management Planning started here, and
42 made it a priority for both the North Slope Borough Fish and
43 Game Management Committee and this organization and kept
44 prodding things along and kept moving them. I think we've
45 made some great progress in management there, I think, and --
46 anyway, Fenton deserves a lot of credit for getting this
47 thing through.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Geoff.
50

1 MR. CARROLL: Okay, I'll move on to moose.
2 You were kind of asking when there might be a season again in
3 26(C).

4
5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, 26(C) was a question
6 from the Council meeting last September.

7
8 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, okay. What I do know is
9 that -- I can tell you what's going on in 26(A), you know,
10 the moose counts we've done the last two years have shown,
11 you know, a definite improvement in the moose numbers. Turn
12 -- let's see, we have the letter and then the page after that
13 that's titled "Colville River Moose". We counted in the
14 trend count area and it kind of gives you a picture of what's
15 happening with the moose populations. The line that starts
16 out higher on the left, that's the total number of moose we
17 counted in this trend count area this year.

18
19 And, as you see, we went through a dramatic decline
20 during the '90s, during 1991 and 1996. Then the lower line
21 is the number is the percentage of calves we would see in a
22 population. And you can see, as the calf survival dropped
23 off and then really went -- you know, dramatically dropped in
24 1994 to where we were adding almost no calves to the
25 population.

26
27 And then something happened between 1996 and 1997,
28 suddenly the calf survival became very good, I mean better
29 than it had been in the old days before the decline. And got
30 even better in 1998. And, as you see, with that greatly
31 improved calf survival -- at the same time, you know, during
32 the years of the decline we were seeing a lot of adult
33 mortality, especially during that summer of 1994, there were
34 lots of adults just lying dead alongside the rivers. And so
35 we were having, you know, lots of adult mortality and very
36 few calves added to the population.

37
38 In 1996 we collared -- between 1996 and 1997 we
39 collared -- put radio collars on 50 moose that we were going
40 to do a study to determine why these moose were dying and as
41 soon as we put the collars on the moose they stopped dying.
42 And within the last three years, since we had those collars
43 on, we've only had three of those 50 collared moose die, so
44 the adult mortality dropped way off. We had much better
45 adult survival, plus the calf survival got a lot better and
46 as a result the population has started back up. And, as you
47 can see, it's still fairly low numbers compared to what we
48 used to have, but we seem to be witnessing a recovery of the
49 moose population.

1 I don't know the exact numbers of what's going on in
2 26(B & C), but I've been told that they're experiencing
3 something, you know, a similar phenomenon, you know. For
4 some reason the calf survival all across the North Slope,
5 after being very bad, suddenly became very good, you know.
6 And I suspect the numbers are going back up over there, too.

7
8 We're planning on doing an area-wide moose census for
9 the entire North Slope in April, this spring, and so we
10 should have better numbers on the moose populations at that
11 time. And, again, that's something that will come up at the
12 Board of Game meeting this coming fall. I'm pretty sure
13 we'll be instituting some sort of a change in the moose
14 regulations. We'll start having -- you know, whether it's a
15 Tier II hunt or whatever. We'll have to figure out what kind
16 of hunt it's going to be depending on the moose numbers, but,
17 you know, in 26(C) that's mostly Federal area, so I assume
18 that we'll have to use the moose numbers and then there'll be
19 some kind of a moose season reinstituted over there too,
20 but.....

21
22 So any questions about moose?

23
24 MR. PATKOTAK: Just one comment.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes, sir.

27
28 MR. PATKOTAK: There definitely been a lot
29 more moose, I know we seen some at Beard Bay and even
30 different set of moose seen near Kooratoo (ph), I know there
31 was quite a bit excitement because we hadn't seen moose in
32 that area in quite a long time.

33
34 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, they seem to disperse out
35 across the tundra a lot last summer, you know, got to watch
36 the moose, you know, for a couple of years and it seemed like
37 most of them stayed right near the Colville and you kind of
38 start thinking that's typical moose behavior and then last
39 summer, for some reason, lots of the spread out all over, you
40 know, there's lots of them way out -- I mean, like you say,
41 traveled clear up to, you know.....

42
43 MR. PATKOTAK: I have one question for you.
44 This -- you know, compared to some of the moose harvested on
45 the Colville versus the moose harvested on the coastal shore,
46 it seems like the coastal moose that have been that have been
47 traveling for quite some time towards the ocean, they seem to
48 be fatter than the ones on the Colville River. I don't know
49 if anybody here has noticed that. Just a comment and
50 something that maybe you might have noticed, I don't know,

1 overlooked for that matter.

2

3 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. No, that's interesting.
4 Glad to hear that. Yeah, I don't know, maybe, I suppose,
5 they're finding lots of good willows to eat along the way and
6 grass and everything.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right, Mike. Any
9 other questions on moose?

10

11 (No audible responses)

12

13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Geoff, continue.

14

15 MR. CARROLL: Okay. I'm being kind of
16 general today, I guess, but the only other thing I thought
17 I'd touch on is the caribou populations on the North Slope.
18 You know, after years of -- a decade or so of a very rapid
19 population growth of most of the caribou populations on the
20 North Slope they seem to be either -- they are reaching peak
21 numbers. I -- the last graph I included is one of population
22 numbers of the Western Arctic Herd, where they basically gone
23 from about 75,000 caribou in 1976 up to 463,000 in our last
24 census in 1996.

25

26 But, you know, they grew very, very rapidly up until
27 the early '90s and then the last two censuses the population
28 growth has slowed by quite a bit. It looks like they're
29 starting to top out and -- now the Porcupine Herd has
30 actually been declining for the last few years and the
31 Central Arctic Herd seems to be kind of declining a little
32 bit. The Teshekpuk Herd looks pretty similar to the Western
33 Arctic Herd, they grew very rapidly up until the early '90s
34 and they kind of seem to be peaking.

35

36 But, you know, we're probably kind of seeing the end
37 of the rapid population growth, but we have so many of them
38 now, I mean, there are lots of caribou and our hunting is
39 very good most of the time, so it's kind of anybody's guess
40 how long that'll go on. If we have several, you know, mild
41 winters or, you know, favorable -- years of favorable weather
42 conditions, both summer and winter, we could maintain this
43 high population for quite some time. But if we have kind of
44 a real weather year, one of these years, we're probably going
45 to see some pretty big die off with that many caribou around.

46

47 And, I don't know, that's about all I have to say
48 about Caribou. It seems like lots of them stayed on the
49 Slope this year and everybody's been reporting good hunting
50 success, so that's good. You know, some past years a great

1 majority of them, even the Teshekpuk Herd traveled way down
2 to the Seward Peninsula and we didn't have that many caribou
3 up here in the winter.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: They're all the way out to
6 Kaktovik.

7

8 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. So they seem to be doing
9 pretty well.

10

11 And I guess the other -- I'd just like to throw in
12 one more thing. I'd really like to thank the Borough
13 Wildlife Department. I was kind of injured and flat on my
14 back for about a month and a half there and they really
15 pitched in and, you know, sold hunting licenses to people
16 that needed to get licenses and tagged furs and things like
17 that and really just, you know -- sure helped us out and I
18 real glad they were there to lend a hand. So, anyway, I just
19 wanted to say thanks a lot for all the help.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: You hear that Harry and
22 Taqulik? Tommy?

23

24 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mike.

27

28 MR. PATKOTAK: Just a humorous comment. I
29 know that Geoff represents the State and that being that he's
30 one of us now, he's kind of disarming a little bit and got to
31 remember that he comes from the State. And that I wish the
32 State was more responsive, like we were, in terms of dealing
33 with Native issues. It's just a comment I'd like to bring
34 out.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Mike.

37

38 MR. CARROLL: I try to be whenever I can, if
39 you see me not being responsive to Native issues let me know.

40

41 MR. PATKOTAK: Well, the laws are written by
42 the Legislature, it has nothing to do with you.

43

44 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

45

46 MR. PATKOTAK: I think maybe the 20th
47 Legislature is going to go down in the annals of history
48 setting apartheid legislation. And that's just for the
49 record, too.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Mike. Any
2 questions for Geoff?

3
4 (No audible responses)

5
6 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Geoff, that's pretty much
7 it?

8
9 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, that's all. Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Do you know how
12 we're going to do this on the subsistence update, I know they
13 had a meeting in Juneau last week with AFN, I don't know
14 exactly what was talked about, but did you have something in
15 that regard?

16
17 MR. CARROLL: Well, he didn't send anything
18 up to me, so.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. All right, thank
21 you, Geoff, very much. Glad to have you be with us here
22 today.

23
24 What's the wish of the Council? Do you want to have
25 a break or see what Dave has to say today? Dave, how long is
26 your report?

27
28 MR. YOKEL: I can do it in less than the
29 (indiscernible - away from microphone)

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Oh, okay.

32
33 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, Mike.

36
37 MR. PATKOTAK: One comment that I wanted to
38 bring out in terms of the low income licenses, I know now
39 that in some of the areas of the villages that this low
40 income is a standard put out in Fairbanks and Anchorage area
41 and that the cost of living being substantially higher in the
42 North Slope is -- there would be any effort by the State to
43 make any adjustments in that area?

44
45 MR. CARROLL: I can bring it up. I guess I
46 wouldn't say chances are real great to get a, you know,
47 different low income cutoff for North Slope villages, but, I
48 don't know, I can bring it up see what the possibilities are.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Mike.

1 Dave.

2

3 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
4 Council, I'm Dave Yokel, the wildlife biologist for the
5 Bureau of Land Management's northern field office in
6 Fairbanks. And I apologize to all of you for running out
7 this morning right at about the time you convened, but I'm
8 back. And all I want to do today is give you a little update
9 on what's happening with the National Petroleum Reserve in
10 Alaska.

11

12 But before I do that I want to introduce to you Bob
13 Schneider, who is our manager in the northern field office in
14 Fairbanks. Do you want to say anything, Bob?

15

16 MR. SCHNEIDER: It's a real pleasure to be
17 here. I know that my predecessor tried to be here as often
18 he could and there been probably a knock on the
19 (indiscernible - away from microphone) only come up here when
20 the weather is nice. I've been up here twice this winter, so
21 hopefully I can learn to know people, learn the issues that
22 are here and I'm here to listen. Dave invited me up and I
23 got some meetings tomorrow, so that's why I wanted to be here
24 today and to see what was happening and to learn Alaska and
25 do the best I can for the people of Alaska, so thanks.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Welcome, Robert.

28

29 MR. YOKEL: Mr. Chairman, last September, at
30 your last meeting I handed out this paper here that's titled
31 "NPR-A Update and Summary" and at that time we had completed
32 our final environmental impact statement for the northeastern
33 part of NPR-A. And this summary introduced the preferred
34 alternative that we had in our plan.

35

36 Since then, in October, the BLM did issue a record of
37 decision on NPR-A, which having been four months ago is now
38 old news to, at least, some of you, but it's happened since
39 our last meeting, so I wanted to go over that with you very
40 briefly. And the bottom line is the preferred alternative
41 that I introduced to you last September was implemented
42 though the record of decision with only some very minor
43 revisions and clarifications.

44

45 And I have some copies of the record of decision with
46 me today. I'm a little bit embarrassed to say I don't have
47 enough for the whole Council. I think I have six copies
48 here. They were a pretty hot item for a while and I had some
49 more and I gave some away at a workshop I had three weeks ago
50 in Fairbanks and that's all I have left. Anyway, I'll hand

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1 those out later.

2

3 Some of you may have already received copies of this
4 through your jobs with the Borough or whatever. What it --
5 three weeks ago when this building here was celebrating its
6 grand opening I was holding a workshop in Fairbanks on the
7 protection of raptors, or birds of prey, falcons and hawks,
8 along the Colville River. And that's one of the first things
9 that's being done to implement this plan.

10

11 The other thing and the more major thing that's going
12 on right now is the planning for a first oil and gas lease
13 sale. This first lease sale will be held in late April or
14 early May of this year, and I'll pass these out, but by now
15 you probably all recognize the shape of our planning area in
16 the northeast part of NPR-A. This green part up here at the
17 top will not be available for oil and gas leasing under this
18 plan. All of the rest of it will be offered for sale in this
19 first lease sale coming up in two or three months.

20

21 So that's about where we are right now. And so I'd
22 like to just pass these out and, I guess I'll leave them
23 up.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: (Indiscernible) in the
26 NPR-A.

27

28 MR. YOKEL: Yeah, I'd like to for sure make
29 sure that Atqasuk and Nuiqsut folks get them.

30

31 MR. UPICKSOUN: And Point Lay.

32

33 MR. YOKEL: Gordon, that's Point Lay way out
34 west.

35

36 MR. UPICKSOUN: (Indiscernible - away from
37 microphone)

38

39 MR. YOKEL: Gordon participated in one of our
40 workshops on NPR-A back in August of '97.

41

42 Now, if there is anybody that wasn't here in
43 September that didn't get one of these (indiscernible - away
44 from microphone) you can pass them down.

45

46 And now that you got the picture, I'll just say, if
47 you have any questions I'll try to answer them.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Well, there was a concern
50 brought out by Anaktuvuk this morning that BLM continues to

1 keep an eye on the fishery key area or the impacts to fishing
2 on the fishing ground. They're worried about after
3 development and exploration continues that maybe they'll be
4 restrictions or maybe less fishing on the Fish Creek for
5 the.....

6

7 MR. YOKEL: Yeah, that's a valid concern and
8 I think we're going to do a lot to both monitor that
9 situation and to prevent it from happening. As you can see
10 in that picture, there's a very broad area, in fact, a three-
11 mile buffer about the lower part of Fish Creek where no
12 permanent surface facilities could take place.

13

14 And, secondly, on the Upper Fish Creek there's a
15 smaller buffer and there's also an area where before anything
16 occurred there, there would be consultation with the North
17 Slope Borough and the people of Nuiqsut.

18

19 And the, finally, part of this plan -- the
20 implementation of this plan would be to develop a
21 Subsistence Advisory Panel and for us to get advice on how
22 manage development of the area, so that it would have the
23 least impact on subsistence resources and especially the
24 activities of the subsistence users.

25

26 And we're in the very beginning stages of discussion
27 on how that panel should work. There's some concern on parts
28 of the State and the North Slope Borough that there's a lot
29 of panels already on the North Slope and we're drawing very
30 heavily on the people up here who are willing to serve on
31 Councils or Panels or whatever. And so if there's anyway we
32 could combine this with similar efforts for other oil
33 development across the North Slope then the three governments
34 are looking into that.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Perhaps that subsistence
37 user conflict meeting might.....

38

39 MR. YOKEL: Well, the North Slope Borough is
40 planning a workshop. I received a letter last.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Oh, yeah, you weren't here
43 this morning. March 22 and 23 are the meeting dates between
44 the subsistence users and industry. That's in Barrow, I
45 think. I don't know where the meeting place is, but John
46 Donham (ph) is the lead man on that, getting everybody
47 together.

48

49 MR. YOKEL: Are there any more questions on
50 the NPR-A issue?

1 MR. C. HOPSON: I had asked earlier on this
2 kind of map, because I'm one of the users, I do have a cabin
3 up in that area, and I had very little response from other
4 Federal agencies why they're not trying to attend all these
5 meetings. But I do have a cabin up those area, you know,
6 like I hunt around Fish Creek area, the Endicott area. I do
7 have a cabin by Teshekpuk, but I never got no response for my
8 request for maps of the area, you know, prior to those
9 hearings that we had at Barrow.

10
11 MR. YOKEL: Okay, Charles, could you just
12 tell me what kind of maps it is that you were referring to
13 and I can see if I can get you some.

14
15 MR. C. HOPSON: Well, the one that was in
16 here. What page is that?

17
18 MR. TAGAROOK: Page three.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I think it's the preferred
21 alternative map that shows that.

22
23 MR. YOKEL: Okay. There is a copy of that in
24 -- is that the map you want?

25
26 MR. C. HOPSON: Well, a similar map, you
27 know, they did show -- on the map I seen last month was where
28 they were going to do some seismic work around the area,
29 but.....

30
31 MR. YOKEL: Oh, okay.

32
33 MR. C. HOPSON: Okay.

34
35 MR. YOKEL: Seismic exploration had been
36 going on every year for quite a while and when they apply for
37 permits to do the seismic work they provide two kinds of
38 maps. One is a public information map which they also --
39 which just shows the general area in which they plan to do
40 seismic exploration and this map is made public the
41 geophysical companies themselves.

42
43 The other map that was the actual trails where they
44 planned to gather seismic data and this is confidential
45 information and we cannot release it to the public. And the
46 Borough Planning Department also permits the same seismic
47 activity and probably gets the same maps, and probably with
48 the same restriction on the maps that show the actual seismic
49 trails themselves, but the seismic companies are also coming
50 to the villages now before the winter activity begins and

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1 talking with the local people. So there should be lots of
2 opportunities to get those general area maps directly from
3 the people that are doing the work.

4

5 If you want, I will get your address and next fall
6 when we get another go around for the next winter, I'll see
7 that a copy of the map comes to you.

8

9 MR. C. HOPSON: Okay, thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Charlie, that it?

12

13 MR. C. HOPSON: Yeah.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thanks, Dave. Any
16 questions for BLM?

17

18 (No audible responses)

19

20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Dave.

21

22 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I think it's time for a
25 break. A 10-minute break, then we'll get with the wolfman,
26 Craig.

27

28 (Off record)

29

30 (On record)

31

32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. For the
33 record, I call the meeting back to order from a brief recess.
34 I want to thank Dave Yokel for giving his presentation on
35 what's happening on BLM lands or NPR-A in particular.

36

37 We have three or four items left to cover for the
38 rest of the day and then we'll leave the proposals for
39 morning. We have to proposals and, perhaps, get out before
40 lunch.

41

42 With that, this is our third meeting with Craig. I
43 think it'll either be a strikeout or it'll be a home run so,
44 Craig, with that I'll turn the floor over to Craig Gardner.
45 Craig.

46

47 MR. GARDNER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm
48 Craig Gardner, I'm the area biologist in Tok. And I first
49 want to thank the Council again. This is my third time to
50 Barrow and to talk to either the Council or to the Management

00081

1 Board, you know, about the idea of moving wolves to the North
2 Slope.

3

4 You know, how I really like to start though, is
5 basically say, you know, I work for Fish and Game, but I'm
6 not really here representing the Department. Actually I'm
7 representing, you know, this Fortymile Caribou Management
8 team. You know, it was a co-management, basically, plan that
9 was developed by subsistence hunters in Yukon and Eastern
10 Interior in Alaska. And, basically, what they're trying to
11 do is recover a caribou herd. And it's definitely the
12 largest co-management kind of project that's going on, you
13 know, at least in the Interior in Alaska. So that's really
14 who I'm representing.

15

16 And what they've tried to do is try to find ways,
17 like I said, to recover this herd. And one of the steps was
18 try to reduce wolf predation. And what they decided to do is
19 kind of do a temporary reduction of wolves in the area. And
20 they decided to do is that trappers, whatever efforts they
21 can do and then whatever the trappers can't catch that we try
22 move to different parts of the state.

23

24 Now, the team never wanted to try to move the
25 problems of the Fortymile to other areas of the state, you
26 know, that's not the intention here. And the last meeting we
27 had here, we can probably all remember, you know, Mr. Edward
28 Hopson, Senior, you know, made some real good points about
29 the wolves and what they can do, you know, as predators, you
30 know, they're very efficient predators.

31

32 Well, we've now moved about 40 wolves over the past
33 two years in this project and we've learned quite of how we
34 can move wolves and, hopefully, and actually I think we can,
35 to not have happen, you know, what Mr. Hopson talked about,
36 you know, large predation. And one of the first things we
37 were looking at was basically just move very few wolves to
38 any one spot, you know, we're talking here the maximum of
39 five wolves to any one spot. And the spot would be of the
40 people's choosing.

41

42 And I'll get to where that gets to be real important,
43 you know, a little bit later on, but what we did find is that
44 you move some wolves into an area, and I handed out earlier
45 this morning, you know, kind of a copy of the points I want
46 to cover, but if you kind of go back to about the third page
47 in there's a map and I kind of showed this before, but really
48 what this is is kind of a figure showing movements of
49 dispersing wolves that we have been able to document in the
50 state of Alaska.

1 And what we find, basically in kind of the Interior
2 and Northern Alaska, is wolves move any direction when they
3 disperse. Basically on the North Slope there's wolves moving
4 off and there's wolves moving on. And what we're finding out
5 is that, you know, this happens every spring and the fall,
6 you know, is a big dispersal time, and wolves moving in the
7 area isn't a plus number of wolves. You know, basically
8 wolves adjust. You know, what keeps wolf numbers kind of
9 consistent is prey base, you know, they can't get more than
10 what they can eat and also hunting and trapping, you know.
11 Basically trappers are quite efficient at keeping wolf
12 numbers at a level lower than what they could, you know, go
13 up with food.

14
15 And so, like, if we move, like, five wolves into an
16 area, you're not going to -- it's not going to make the wolf
17 population really any larger, they're going to adjust. And,
18 like I said, we've moved, like, 40 wolves and we're seeing
19 that. You know, last year we moved 20 wolves down to the
20 Kenai Peninsula, you know, a much smaller area. And we
21 relocated them into a much, you know, kind of a fairly
22 concentrated area.

23
24 And we knew that there was 200 and some wolves on the
25 Peninsula and they've already adjusted. I mean packs that
26 were there, they're not any larger. Some packs have moved
27 over and, basically, you're still seeing about the same
28 number of wolves on the Kenai. You know, so basically you're
29 not going to see a big number of wolves come in from any kind
30 of a relocation

31
32 The next point, if you kind of go to the next page
33 over, is this map. When we move wolves what we have found is
34 that you move a group of five wolves and you know they're
35 from the same pack, they don't stay together. For whatever
36 reason that dispersing wolves want to disperse and they're
37 not, you know, dispersing as a group. And so what you see
38 there, you can see where I have the release sight, and this
39 is only after 26 days and already those four wolves are
40 apart.

41
42 And basically what we have in that group was three 11
43 month old wolves and one 23 month, all from the same pack.
44 But they instantly kind of dispersed away. And so what that
45 means is that there's not a pack hunting at the relocation
46 site. You know, basically they're going to split and kind of
47 go off in their directions. So, again, there's not a big
48 impact on the local area.

49
50 So if you go to the next page, this is my last one.

1 The next things wolves do after you drop them off is they got
2 a pretty amazing compass in their head. In fact, it's still
3 amazing to me. Even wolves that we took to the Kenai, which
4 if you can kind of envision how we went ahead and caught
5 them, you know, basically I was out there in (indiscernible)
6 we caught the wolves and we caught, you know, like I said, 18
7 -- we moved 18 to the Kenai actually.

8

9 We got them kind of all caught, we put them in a
10 Beaver, we flew the Beaver to Tok and then there was a truck
11 meeting us in Tok. We put them, basically, in barrels and we
12 trucked them all the way down to Kenai, it took us 12 hours,
13 and released these wolves. And within two days these wolves
14 were heading back home. In fact, one wolf, you probably even
15 read about it in the newspaper, made it all the way off the
16 Kenai and was only like 150 miles from getting back to where
17 we caught here. They carry an incredible compass, but that's
18 really good. Because that means where you can relocate
19 wolves will kind of give you an idea of which way they'll
20 move, okay?

21

22 So if you put them -- you can put them in areas where
23 either they can go toward people or you can get them where
24 they go away from people, you can get them to go away from,
25 you know, like say critical moose areas. You know, so you
26 can kind of select and they're kind of -- you can kind of
27 think, you know, they're not going to make a direct line, but
28 they're going to make a general movement back toward home.
29 So you can kind pick these areas, you know, where they're
30 more beneficial to you.

31

32 The next, probably, major point is that they die.
33 Dispersing wolves, natural or by what we're doing, basically
34 40 to 60 percent of them die. And most of them die due to
35 trappers. We've had some get kicked in the head by a moose,
36 you know, it's definitely a rough life out there. But that
37 means, though, if you move five wolves only two to three are
38 going to be alive within, you know, a year. You know, so
39 basically, again, you're not talking about a lot of wolves.
40 And you move them, but, you know, they're going to disperse
41 out and they're not going to be very many.

42

43 And then the last part it takes, for whatever reason
44 again, you know, these wolves are just trying to find a home.
45 It take them a good -- well, one within four months got enter
46 -- you know, kind of got taken up by another pack, but most
47 of them take up to a year to get kind of either set up their
48 own pack, you know, meet another wolf and kind of establish a
49 territory or they join an existing pack. But it takes them a
50 while to become a pack member.

1 And that's another kind of a point that your wolf
2 numbers aren't going to increase because you added wolves
3 into the area. They got to kind of find themselves a spot.

4
5 But that's all said and good. That's just saying
6 that it's not going to hurt people that take wolves. But
7 what's the benefits, I mean, why should you take wolves? I
8 mean, are there any benefits to it? Well, one of the
9 benefits, like I said, is to hunters and trappers. You know,
10 they're the main reason why these wolves die, any dispersing
11 wolves.

12
13 And the Fortymile wolves, I just brought one, the
14 last time I brought a couple. The reason I brought this
15 color wolf is the packs that actually got to move this spring
16 are primarily this color. We're going to have to, you know,
17 move some grays in, but most of the packs we're going to have
18 to move are kind of these blacks and then some with blue,
19 there's a really blue coloring to them.

20
21 They -- you know, they're pretty wolves. This
22 actually was a November catch, a very old female, so her hair
23 length isn't anywhere near as long as they actually get, but
24 still, I think, she's a really pretty, pretty wolf. The
25 quality is good.

26
27 The next benefit -- so your hunter and trappers can
28 benefit. The next benefit actually one you guys kind of
29 talked about a little bit this morning and that's conflict.
30 Now, this is kind of down the road thing, but the Fortymile
31 Herd right now is growing. I think, you know, Charlie, you
32 mentioned that you heard on the radio that the Fortymile Herd
33 was doing quite well. Well, it is. It's grown by, you know,
34 20 percent last year, it grew by 10 percent the year before.

35
36 What this really means if we can continue this
37 program, if we can keep the wolf numbers down low for another
38 couple of years we're going to see this Fortymile Herd get --
39 and we're hoping to do is like the size of the Porcupine.
40 And what that means to conflict, as I getting to this, is
41 that the hunters that are driving the Haul Road today, and
42 there's a lot of them, because there's no caribou hunting on
43 the road system, you know, south of the Brooks Range. I mean
44 the Nelchina Herd is a big herd, but it's on Tier II. The
45 Fortymile Herd is very reduced harvest right now. The Delta
46 Herd is permit. I mean all the roadside herds people can go
47 and so they come up the Haul Road, which kind of competes,
48 you know, with Nuiqsut hunters, you know, Anaktuvuk Pass
49 hunters.

1 And so, if we can increase the Fortymile Herd and,
2 like I said, it looks like we're going to be successful if we
3 keep these wolf numbers down, we're going to see a lot more
4 hunters stay home, you know. A bunch of these Fairbanks and
5 Anchorage people are not going to come up the Haul Road, you
6 know, they're going to drive to the Fortymile, it's a much
7 closer hunt.

8
9 So I think that's a real benefit that can be realized
10 if, you know, we basically all work together and we can
11 reduce these wolves. This April we're going -- we need two
12 sites. You know, my problem is not your problem, but I'm
13 looking for two sites and actually we'll be done. And the
14 only other time you'll see me is if you want me to come back
15 and maybe work with Geoff, if we move wolves on the Slope.
16 If you want any of them radio collared, we can do that. If
17 not, we just put an ear tag in them so the hide -- you know,
18 the hide quality stays good. However you guys want to do it.
19 I can come up and kind of go through the whole program, and
20 you can kind of see -- we can talk about effects.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Craig,
23 very much. As a body or a Council, before I turn it over to
24 the Council members is that we deal with regulations and this
25 we work with the Federal and State agencies, it's their
26 control, but near communities, I think that wouldn't be a
27 problem or -- I don't know what the policies or the mandates
28 of the Federal and State agencies are in predator control or
29 those kind of things. It might be a little more restrictive
30 in the Park Service, I'm sure we might have to get permission
31 from them, but I think on the North Slope it's pretty well
32 lenient or maybe it's up to the Committee. Or is it up the
33 Federal agencies or State agencies, would they have a
34 heartburn a problem with the relocation. Have you checked on
35 that?

36
37 MR. GARDNER: I think in talking to the park,
38 we can't release in the park. State land, yeah, I got total
39 permission to release on any State land. Of course,
40 corporation land, village land, in-holding, that's up to you
41 guys, you know, if you guys want to allow it, then we can go
42 there. I think we've released on other Fish and Wildlife
43 land, but it's called environmental assessment, we had to
44 write a quick one of those, but they have allowed us to
45 release on, at least, Fish and Wildlife land.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Donna, did you have
48 some comment?

49
50 MS. DEWHURST: As far as the Federal Board,

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1 you know, the Board doesn't really have any power as far --
2 you know, your recommendation would be kind of a generic
3 thing. Ultimately, like he said, is whatever and where they
4 release it is the one that has to make the ultimate decision,
5 so any recommendation that comes out of this Council is just,
6 basically, an open recommendation, it does not really have
7 any power, one way or the other, to say yes or no to the
8 release.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Donna. Any
11 questions for Craig or requests?

12

13 MR. UPICKSOUN: Yeah.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

16

17 MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes, I have a question,
18 Craig. You said you've relocated about 40?

19

20 MR. GARDNER: A little over that.

21

22 MR. UPICKSOUN: But you never said anything
23 like I'd like to relocate 150 more and you've never given us
24 a number.

25

26 MR. GARDNER: Okay. Good question.
27 Actually, I need to be able to move 10.

28

29 MR. UPICKSOUN: Pardon?

30

31 MR. GARDNER: Ten wolves, two sites,
32 five.....

33

34 MR. UPICKSOUN: Ten more and then you'd have
35 your management plan under control?

36

37 MR. GARDNER: Yeah.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. For your
40 information, too, is second week in April is too late to
41 pursue them or is that an opportunity, at least in our area
42 in the Brooks Range, it'll be almost too late to travel
43 around inland, so.....

44

45 MR. GARDNER: Uh-huh.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

48

49 MR. G. BROWER: I'd like to make a
50 recommendation. If it something that you're looking for to

00087

1 drop -- if it's a private land owner. Chipp nine [sic] is a
2 good area, there's private land there. My dad owns a 40 acre
3 parcel there and it's a place where you can hunt wolves.
4 There's wolves that den in the little upper parts, maybe
5 around Price River Valley, just a little bit up further, but
6 we see them a lot and they come down when we're hunting and
7 when we go back and forth in December we generally try to get
8 a wolf or a wolverine there and we're generally successful
9 time to time. It's a good location and you'll probably get
10 an okay right away from the land owner.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you,
13 Mr. Brower. Any questions or comments for.....

14

15 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon and then Ben.

18

19 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, after listening
20 to elder, Eddie Hopson, discussing wolves, how they wiped our
21 reindeer herd up here and they did that in no time at all,
22 I'm kind of hesitant of -- after listening to him. I mean,
23 holy cow, and he was quite -- he meant what he said, that was
24 my impression and after listening to him. I hope you find a
25 home for your 10 wolves, Craig, because we know what you're
26 trying to do down there, trying to increase the size of the
27 herd, you know, but at the same time.....

28

29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ben.

30

31 MR. B. HOPSON: Yeah. Has any communities in
32 the North Slope shown any interest?

33

34 MR. GARDNER: Yeah, thanks, Ben. Actually
35 the other recommendation from the Council was for me to
36 contact individual communities and I went to Anaktuvuk Pass
37 last week and the people there okayed the location five to
38 the Itkillik River and -- for April, so I -- you know, I had
39 15 I was trying to move, now I have 10.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other question, here?

42

43 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mike.

46

47 MR. PATKOTAK: More a comment than anything.
48 You know, I got a lot of family that are wolf hunters
49 and.....

50

00088

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Can you speak up just a
2 little bit, Mike.

3

4 MR. PATKOTAK: I got more family that are
5 wolf hunters and I could go either way. And just more
6 comment than anything for our fellow members. You got to
7 know the reason why these animals disperse is that wolves are
8 very territorial animals. They'll run off, like he said,
9 they'll try to run off any relocated animal. And just for
10 comment and let you know that these are animals being dropped
11 off into a different animal's territory, so to speak, and
12 that's probably why you see the dispersal.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

15

16 MR. PATKOTAK: And once again, that's
17 something that's been noted by the elders, for you
18 scientists, it might be a good one for our elders, to note
19 that historical knowledge is -- historical record has always
20 been ignored or criminalized, to a point, and so maybe it may
21 be a good note that next time you listen to some elders talk
22 about the characteristics of an animal, that if you look into
23 the records, you'll find that this the main reason, one of
24 the reasons that the elders know as -- you can record as
25 scientific knowledge.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Mike. Any
28 other questions or comments for Craig?

29

30 MR. UPICKSOUN: I have.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

33

34 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, I have a
35 suggestion for you. If you were to send a resolution to all
36 the IRA Council or the City Council in the villages here on
37 the Slope, a sample resolution about relocating wolves in the
38 vicinity of that particular town, I'd bet you you would get
39 rid of your 10 wolves that you want to relocate, Craig.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Gordon.

42

43 Paul.

44

45 MR. BODFISH: I make a recommendation, yeah,
46 you can move about five wolves up in our area.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Terry.

49

50 MR. TAGAROOK: I asked some of our hunters

00089

1 that go up near the Brooks Range if they were interested in
2 -- as long as you let them know where you drop them off.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Terry.

5

6 MR. C. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Charlie.

9

10 MR. C. HOPSON: Yeah, when you first came a
11 year ago or some months ago, I objected to, you know, getting
12 wolves in our territory or up in the North Slope. I have
13 changed my mind since, because I have a lot of people I hunt
14 with that was thinking that we want to go ahead and try that,
15 you know, up here, so there are people at Wainwright and
16 Atqasuk that are interested. I think we should try it once.
17 If it's not going to work, you know, we can go up there and
18 clean them off and whatever,

19

20 But a good place for that, I think, people would see
21 wolves would be around Look Out Ridge area behind Wainwright
22 and Atqasuk, you know, because there's some pack that already
23 know in a different area, but I think Geoff might know that.
24 But Look Out Ridge is a good area. I haven't seen that many
25 wolves over in that area. It might be a good place to drop
26 them off, I don't know. But after I talked with local
27 hunters in different areas, I changed my mind about opposing
28 this thing, so I'm all for it too.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Charlie. Ben.

31

32 MR. B. HOPSON: When I first presented this
33 proposal it was -- no, it was mostly thought of as a proposal
34 to benefit North Slope villages. It was kind of implied
35 because I was a trapper it was to my benefit, which I wasn't
36 looking for, you know, because Brooks Range has so much
37 wolves, and Steve can attest to that, in the park. But this
38 was mostly to benefit North Slope villages was the intent
39 behind this idea. So I wasn't trying to.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Ben.

42

43 MR. B. HOPSON: Yeah.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right, any other
46 comments or questions for Craig?

47

48 (No audible responses)

49

50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: If not, thank you, Craig.

00090

1 Good luck on your project.

2

3 Okay, we'll move on to item G. Barbara on the
4 nominations and annual report.

5

6 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You guys that the
7 nominations period is open now and it'll close March 26th.
8 We have three seats opened. That'll be Fenton's seat, Harry
9 Brower's and Terry Tagarook's. All the notices were sent out
10 earlier to all the villages and don't forget it closes March
11 26th.

12

13 And I also passed out your draft annual report. This
14 is how it is written right now, if you should have any
15 changes or additions, let me know, we'll change it.

16

17 And then the last paper that I passed out is from our
18 Administrative Officer, Janice Collins. It's about your bank
19 account, I think it's self-explanatory. Just take that paper
20 to your bank, I think probably you guys have an account, just
21 go to NBA and bring that paper and leave them that envelope.
22 And the ones that are going to be terminating as of December
23 '99 should at least fill out this waiver form, that's Fenton,
24 Harry and Terry. And then give it to me and I'll bring it
25 back to Janice.

26

27 But those of you -- and if you don't have a bank
28 account either, then on that other you can write down, if you
29 want, my term with NSSRC expired December 31, 1999, and then
30 sign your name. And if you don't have a bank account,
31 there's a waiver form right here and you can check it off and
32 sign it and give it back to me. And then we'll also keep
33 bringing your checks here, if approved, by hand.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay?

36

37 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Barbara. Any
40 questions for Barbara?

41

42 All right. The Harvest Plan, under item H. Were
43 there any questions or comments for Barbara?

44

45 Okay. I proud to say that the Harvest Plan is going
46 around for signatures and we have all of the signatures from
47 all the Federal agencies for your copy here. I want to thank
48 all the Federal agencies. This is an interim plan, we're
49 going to work on another more comprehensive Harvest Plan from
50 this day forward, so the copy that you have within your

00091

1 booklet is the signed copy.

2

3 Just again, I want to thank Geoff, Taqulik, Patricia
4 Reynolds from -- also Donna has been involved in some
5 meetings, Steve Ulvi-Park Service, Dave Yokel-BLM, Harry
6 Brower and I don't know, I don't want to miss anyone but over
7 the past couple of years we can now present this to the
8 Federal Subsistence Board this spring and I don't know who
9 will do that, but I'm just very proud of this Harvest Plan
10 that we've tackled and we've give and take with these Federal
11 agencies. They made their input, we either took it out or
12 amended it or something, one way or the other and I'm proud
13 to say we came a long ways with all the Federal and State
14 agencies.

15

16 So this is a document well worth looking at and
17 reviewing. If anyone has any questions, you can ask any one
18 of the people that I've named just a little while ago.
19 Anyone have any questions on the Harvest Plan? Or comments?
20 Taqulik or Geoff?

21

22 (No audible responses)

23

24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: No questions?

25

26 MR. UPICKSOUN: Geoff.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Geoff, go ahead.

29

30 MR. CARROLL: Well, I just -- it's been a
31 long haul and -- like I say, it's been a long haul getting
32 through this. I think we can all remember a couple of years
33 ago when we could hardly have musk-ox at a meeting without
34 all of us, pretty soon, hollering at each other and everybody
35 in the room getting upset. Anyway, we've come to the point
36 where we've talked this over enough that we can work together
37 and come to decisions, you know, we were able, you know, to
38 address problems and discuss solutions amongst ourselves and
39 if we can agree upon them within our own group here then we
40 take those solutions to the Board of Game and, you know, kind
41 of have the power of the agencies and the users already have
42 agreed to a solution and usually the Board of Game -- I
43 assume the Federal Board will go along with those.

44

45 So anyway, I just thing we made a great deal of
46 progress in musk-ox management here in the last couple of
47 years. And I'd just like to thank everybody that's been
48 involved in the process. It's taken a fair amount of
49 compromising on everybody's part and, you know, particularly
50 Fenton for initiating the thing and seeing it though the end.

00092

1 Anyway, I think we have something we can all be proud of.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Dave, did you want to say
4 anything on this?

5

6 MR. YOKEL: No, I don't have any fancy
7 statement.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Steve?

10

11 MR. ULVI: (Inaudible response)

12

13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: None? Donna, Fish and
14 Wildlife?

15

16 MS. DEWHURST: (Inaudible response)

17

18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Taqulik, want to
19 say something on the Harvest Plan?

20

21 MS. HEPA: I'll just make it short. For the
22 record, again, this is Taqulik Hepa. Just like Geoff, I'd
23 just like to thank the different agencies that were a
24 participant in this. And he brought up a good example, that
25 this is probably one of the most controversy -- or difficult
26 resources that we could have tried to put a management plan
27 together for. And, you know, to look at the bigger picture
28 this, you know, could be an example of other plans that, you
29 know, we might be interested in on the North Slope. And for
30 us to accomplish this management plan for musk-ox, you know,
31 just indicates that it can be done for other resources.

32

33 And I would like to thank BLM, Park Service, Fish and
34 Wildlife Service, Alaska Department of Fish and Game and your
35 Council here and our Fish and Game Management Committee for
36 sticking it out and finally coming to an agreement on this
37 plan.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Harry.

42

43 MR. H. BROWER: I can't say anything else,
44 Taqulik said it all for us.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I'd say some of the rooms
47 were small and it got pretty hot in there and a lot of good
48 verbiage went back and forth, I remember a couple of those.
49 Then we worked them out and here we are.

50

1 Any questions on the Harvest Plan?

2
3 (No audible responses)

4
5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: If not, we'll proceed with
6 Native Village of Barrow, Morgan Solomon.

7
8 MR. SOLOMON: Good afternoon, my name is
9 Morgan Solomon, for the record. I'm the Wildlife Department
10 Director for the Native Village of Barrow. The reason I'm
11 here this afternoon is to seek your support. A support which
12 became very important to the Native Village of Barrow last
13 month.

14
15 (Inupiat)

16
17 I'm going to explain that in English here,
18 momentarily.

19
20 (Inupiat)

21
22 The North Slope Borough Political State Division has
23 been in the umbrella of what is today. These beautiful
24 buildings that we have in place. But without North Slope
25 Borough, I think we would have lost the opportunity to hunt
26 our bowhead whale, we would have lost the opportunity to hunt
27 and gather our duck in summer, because the Federal government
28 went after us the first time. We have lost a lot of our
29 self-integrity because the State and Federal governments have
30 been against the principal of subsistence users throughout
31 the state of Alaska.

32
33 We need your help. You are unbrellaed under the
34 Federal guidelines, the Federal jurisdiction. You are a
35 Federal Advisory Council for the North Slope. And without
36 your help, I think, we might be hurt in the near future.

37
38 (Inupiat)

39
40 We are hoping you will help support, in form of a
41 letter or a resolution, to the North Slope Borough Assembly
42 that you will support to maintain the North Slope Borough
43 Wildlife Management. The North Slope Borough can say, why,
44 sure, we'll go ahead and allow you to maintain the Department
45 of Wildlife Management for another year. It shouldn't be on
46 a yearly basis, it should be forever as long as long as the
47 North Slope Borough is our Native oriented government on the
48 North Slope.

49
50 It should stay there forever, for one simple reason,

1 the North Slope Borough Wildlife Management have government
2 to government relationship with both the State and Federal
3 governments whenever they want money and funds to maintain
4 the credibility of our Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission and
5 other nature resources that are here that we feed on. We
6 have to have a better government to government relationship
7 with both the State and Federal government and we can't do it
8 without the North Slope Borough Wildlife Management.

9

10 That is why I'm here. Most importantly I want to let
11 you know, next month, March the 30th, the Native Village of
12 Barrow is going to have their annual meeting with their
13 tribal members here in Barrow. And during that period for
14 the last two years that I've been a Wildlife Director, we put
15 together a wildlife -- fish and wildlife ordinance. This
16 ordinance will help me to -- and us to work better with
17 government, such as the Federal and State Fish and Game. It
18 will give us a better leverage to work with other agencies
19 that deals with our wildlife management here on the North
20 Slope.

21

22 We are hoping that once this ordinance is passed
23 through our tribal membership that will have an opportunity
24 to allow other tribal villages, tribal government in all the
25 seven villages to adopt something that is similar so that we
26 can have a better working relationship with the Federal
27 government and the State government as it is today.

28

29 One important thing, though, is we are continuing to
30 fight the State in terms and conditions of our subsistence
31 uses on the North Slope and in Alaska. We need to give all
32 our help, you people, you young people here, you have a form
33 of a power that is given to you that can be -- that we can
34 feel, myself. I feel it when I say I'm proud of you, but you
35 must maintain a strong identity of your subsistence lifestyle
36 on the North Slope.

37

38 We've been working hard to get that creditation
39 through our first mayor.

40

41 (Inupiat)

42

43 Because it should show in the record that you support
44 a Wildlife Management such as what Barrow has.

45

46 Thank you very much.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: You heard Mr. Solomon from
49 Native Village of Barrow. I just want to repeat there was an
50 initiative or something that was in the realms of politics,

1 although it is a subsistence issue, with the Department of
2 Wildlife and it was on the Borough's rating to be noted as an
3 essential department. However, I hear that with the new
4 criteria that has been changed to make the change that the
5 Department of Wildlife Management is now an essential
6 department within the Borough.

7

8 Again, this Council -- all these subsistence issues
9 you brought up, Mr. Solomon, are very important to us as
10 residents, but primarily our responsibility is to provide for
11 proposal and review and make recommendations. However, I'll
12 leave it up to the Council to discuss his request for
13 support. I think a verbal support or comments can be made
14 since it deals with subsistence and the work that we do. Not
15 only the Department of Wildlife, we also work pretty close
16 with the Department of Fish and Game.

17

18 For the record, I know that when proposals do come up
19 that the Department of Wildlife helps this Council along with
20 the other Federal and State agencies, whether it's getting
21 comments or testimony from the outlying villages, like in
22 Nuiqsut, for the Board of Game. Also dealing with Kaktovik
23 on their proposals for musk-ox and sheep. They provide help
24 for City Council members or other members or residence to go
25 make it down to Anchorage, when this program cannot help to
26 bring the testimony or testifiers to Anchorage. And the
27 Department plays a very big role in that part, as far as this
28 Council is concerned.

29

30 So that will be my, for the record, comment that the
31 Department is a vital part in helping this Regional Council
32 work with regulations and proposals for review and eventually
33 for enactment or part of the proposal books.

34

35 So along with that, the Fish and Game Committee of
36 the Borough couldn't go without help of the Wildlife
37 Department, again, on proposals that go through this system.
38 The Federal subsistence management system. The Committee has
39 submitted proposals, again, without the help of the staff of
40 the Borough, we couldn't have made a professional
41 presentation. And they play a vital part in not only this
42 Council, but also the North Slope Borough's Fish and Game
43 Committee. I know they're very important.

44

45 So with that, I'll ask for any Council comments or
46 questions for Morgan on his request or support for the North
47 Slope Borough Wildlife Department for the record?

48

49 MR. UPICKSOUN: I have.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

2
3 MR. UPICKSOUN: You said the Budget Committee
4 no longer considers the Wildlife Management Department as
5 nonessential?

6
7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: What Taqulik mentioned
8 this morning, that's -- Taqulik.

9
10 MR. UPICKSOUN: Maybe you can expand on that,
11 because there was quite a bit of concern that -- what was
12 that meeting that the Assembly had that afternoon last week,
13 was it?

14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: A workshop.

15
16 MR. UPICKSOUN: The workshop, they had to
17 have to have quite a bit of support for your department.
18 Many people attended that because of the wording that was
19 used by being nonessential it fell in that crack somehow and
20 I'm sure they're sorry they ever used that kind of language.
21 But now that -- like Fenton said, they don't consider it
22 nonessential any more and there's no fear that department
23 will no longer exist. Is that the way it is now, Taqulik?

24
25 MS. HEPA: Yes. For the record, Taqulik
26 Hepa, Department of Wildlife Management. He is correct, as a
27 result of the workshop that was held in early February, was
28 it February? Yeah, early February, and the people that were
29 there to give testimony on behalf of support of the
30 Department of Wildlife Management, the Budget Committee had
31 reconvened and reevaluated our department. And with the new
32 evaluation we are rated as essential now and again, you know,
33 I'd like to thank the people that were there to give
34 testimony and providing support to our department and how
35 they thought the work that our department did was essential
36 to the subsistence issues and related issues -- you know,
37 related to the resources and related to the subsistence needs
38 of the people of the North Slope. So it has been
39 reevaluated.

40
41 At the March Assembly meeting here, the budget issue
42 will probably come up again and we'll probably get further
43 instructions on what to do, you know, with the upcoming
44 budget.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Taqulik.

47
48 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay. Just -- with that
49 explanation, would Mr. Solomon be -- we appreciate your
50 presentation. With her explanation and the comments made by

1 Chairman Fenton, would you be satisfied that the North Slope
2 Borough Wildlife Department is no longer in jeopardy?

3

4 MR. SOLOMON: (Inupiat) Federal recognized
5 Council for our subsistence and the Subsistence Advisory
6 Council must help protect a State political subdivision, such
7 as North Slope Borough. And in there is a Wildlife
8 Department, which some of you are a member of, and you're a
9 member to the Council itself.

10

11 What I'm only asking is -- what I'm asking is -- we
12 did the same thing with the Native Village of Barrow, we're
13 submitting a letter to them, indicating that we're going to
14 support them. Where I'm coming from here is you have a very
15 strong, Federally organized, Advisory Council and a letter of
16 support most certainly would benefit the Wildlife Department
17 because without it what are we going to do? If the Federal
18 takes over, of course, it's -- I'm going to gain, because I'm
19 a Federally recognized Village Tribal Wildlife Director for
20 Native Village of Barrow. I'm certainly going to gain if the
21 Federal takes over.

22

23 But while they're still fighting between the State
24 and the Federal governments under subsistence, we got to have
25 a Wildlife Department in place without no ties. That's what
26 I'm asking for today, a letter of support from you to the
27 Wildlife Management here with the North Slope Borough.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you. Any other
30 comments on the request?

31

32 (No audible responses)

33

34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: We'll take care of that
35 administratively. Thank you, Morgan.

36

37 MR. SOLOMON: Okay.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ben.

40

41 MR. B. HOPSON: Yeah. I have a question for
42 the staff. Can we say that, as a Council, you know what
43 Morgan is requesting? Is that from our policies?

44

45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Bill. I'll rely on Bill's
46 expertise on that.

47

48 MR. KNAUER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, you can
49 certainly express your appreciation for the cooperative
50 nature and benefit of the work that the North Slope Wildlife

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1 Department has done and you can express your hope that that
2 organization will remain in the forefront of the efforts for
3 good wildlife management here on the North Slope.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Bill.

6

7 We'll get that letter out, address it to the Budget
8 Committee or to the Wildlife Department or.....

9

10 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: To the Assembly.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: To the North Slope
13 Assembly.

14

15 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Mike.

18

19 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman. Taqulik, would
20 you clarify some of the points you made about this upcoming
21 March issue? I didn't quite hear that or my hearing is
22 getting real bad.

23

24 MR. UPICKSOUN: Also, Mr. Chairman, maybe
25 direct Bill to author that letter of support and Taqulik will
26 give him the date of the next Assembly meeting. The next
27 Assembly meeting will be the first Tuesday of March.....

28

29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Barbara will work with
30 Bill on that.

31

32 MR. UPICKSOUN:maybe a letter can be --
33 support can be given before that date to the Assembly.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Mr. Upicksoun.
36 Barbara will work with Bill on that.

37

38 Okay, Taqulik, Mike's question.

39

40 MS. HEPA: Okay. I guess at the last
41 Assembly meeting there was several people from different
42 villages that were trying to call in and the number that they
43 were given was not -- it didn't work or it didn't get
44 through, so there are several people from each of the different
45 whaling communities that were going to call in to give
46 testimony and they had notified us the day after.

47

48 And at this March meeting they're probably going to
49 call in. I'm assuming that they're going to, so it'll
50 probably be brought up as concerns under the village concerns

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1 at the Assembly meeting. And when you look on the agenda for
2 the Assembly meeting for March 2, I guess Jim Sharp wrote a
3 letter to the Assembly talking about public hearing dates for
4 each of the different departments to give their budget. And
5 from that Assembly meeting we'll hear when our department
6 will be up for discussion with the Assembly about our budget.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Taqulik.

9

10 MS. HEPA: Yeah.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Donna.

13

14 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, I assume you're going to
15 go on to talk about the schedule or potential schedule for
16 the rest of the meeting. And I did want to make a request
17 and a statement before we get into that.

18

19 First of all, I'm talking mainly in terms of our own
20 staff, but I'd like to say that certainly everybody in this
21 room is willing to go with any Council decision on the
22 schedule and our staff will stay as long as you guys request
23 that we stay. We always have in the past. But the one
24 request that we'd like to make, and I'll give my three
25 points, is that we extend this meeting another hour, maybe an
26 hour and a half at the most, to finish up the proposals we
27 have left to cover. Or possibly meet later tonight, but I
28 think we can get it done if we stayed. It's 4:00 o'clock
29 now, if we stayed to maybe like 5:00-5:30, I think we could
30 get this finished tonight.

31

32 The three points is that there are two proposals
33 left. I'm going to be making the presentations on both.
34 Both proposals are repeat proposals that this Council has
35 heard several times. The presentations are going to be
36 short, neither one is going to be involved or long.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Will you hold it for a
39 minute, Donna. We need to get done with the reports before
40 we.....

41

42 MS. DEWHURST: Okay, I'm sorry.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Would you do that? Just
45 keep your thoughts on that for a minute, I just want to leave
46 the reports and then we'll get to the schedule, okay?

47

48 MS. DEWHURST: Okay.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Donna.

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1 With that, I want to thank Morgan for bringing up the
2 concern on that issue. I believe there's no other reports
3 unless I missed something else.

4
5 But for your information, Gordon, on the Tier I
6 proposal, the City of Kaktovik is thinking of submitting a
7 proposal for the Tier I musk-ox hunt to change that, so
8 they're aware of Tier I proposals, Board of Game proposals
9 this August, also for moose, so.....

10
11 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, are you
12 referring to the Tier I hunt that's been going on east of the
13 Dalton Highway for musk-ox?

14
15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah.

16
17 MR. UPICKSOUN: And Kaktovik's position on
18 that is eliminate it also, possibly?

19
20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah.

21
22 MR. UPICKSOUN: That's good to hear, thank
23 you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. That's pretty much
26 it for the Federal and State agency reports this afternoon.
27 As mentioned earlier, I did say we'll discuss the rest of the
28 schedule. The Proposal 63, formerly 108 allowing for the
29 hunt or the take of musk-ox in the preserve or the Gates of
30 the Arctic and also a sheep issue. And Gordon Upicksoun had
31 requested that we meet on two day, although we were just
32 hearing from Donna. If you want to continue your plea or
33 request to get done today. Donna.

34
35 MS. DEWHURST: The other two points I wanted
36 to make are, if we did finish this evening, of course,
37 obviously everybody would be able to start traveling back to
38 their homes in the morning.

39
40 The other point to that, and it's something I was
41 really aware of until recently, working in the program.
42 Gordon and Fenton and Ray recently were sent to the user
43 conflict meeting in Kotzebue, recently, and we paid for the
44 travel. I was involved a little bit in that coordination and
45 it made me more aware that our travel budgets, despite
46 hearing that there's going to be all this money flowing into
47 the program for fisheries down the road, right now our travel
48 budget is getting tighter and tighter, primarily because the
49 cost is going up. Our financial person, Janice Collins, did
50 a little analysis of the costs of RAC meeting and that sort

1 of meetings and that sort of thing. The cost of airfares go
2 up, the cost of hotels go up, and that's just inevitable.

3

4 But what happens is we work with the same pot of
5 money and the costs of RAC meetings goes up, we don't have as
6 much money for other travel and things like that meeting we
7 just sent you to, there were other people, other RAC members
8 and other people that wanted to go, and not everybody was
9 funded, we didn't have enough money to send everybody that
10 wanted to go. There were some RAC members from the Seward
11 Peninsula, for example, that wanted to go to that meeting.

12

13 Whenever we extend a RAC meeting, like if we extend
14 it and people have to spend tomorrow night because we
15 extended it, that money, then, becomes unavailable to spent
16 for other meetings. Now, I'm not saying we're at a critical
17 point or anything, don't get me wrong there, but I'm just
18 saying that the money is -- we're starting to have to look at
19 the budget a little tighter than we have in the past.

20

21 And so just to let yourselves -- or something to
22 consider, whenever more money is spent on a RAC meeting, that
23 money, then, is unavailable for other incidental travel.
24 Like if there would be another meeting, Fenton would request
25 to go or somebody else on the RAC would request, we may or
26 may not have the funding at that point to support it.

27

28 For example, Scott Schliebe wanted to come to this
29 meeting and there.....

30

31 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That's from MMS.

32

33 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, he's from MMS, but the
34 request was made to our program to fund it and it wasn't --
35 and part of it wasn't funded.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Donna.

38

39 MS. DEWHURST: But just anyway, I just wanted
40 to kind of -- I don't want to paint it as a black picture by
41 any means, but I just wanted to make you aware that the money
42 can go either way, and if we save money it would be available
43 for other things.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Donna. Gordon.

46

47 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, I offered to
48 have a short meeting today and another short one tomorrow, we
49 go through the whole agenda. If you had wanted a one day
50 meeting you should have requested a one day meeting to

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1 discuss the budget shortfall that's coming up, but when you
2 advertise a two day RAC meeting then, by golly, there --
3 somebody might be planning to attend tomorrow. And, in fact,
4 there may not be a meeting and here we advertise it as two
5 days already. That's the position I'm taking.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

8

9 MR. UPICKSOUN: If we're done early in the
10 morning, fine. If it takes us till the afternoon tomorrow,
11 fine, but then irregardless let's have it at least those two
12 days.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Gordon.

15

16 Ben.

17

18 MR. B. HOPSON: Yeah, just to honor the same
19 people or the same schedule that's been published as a two
20 day RAC meeting. There may be people that are planning to
21 attend tomorrow who we don't know of, and I would go along
22 with that, too.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Ben. Any other
25 Council comments?

26

27 (No audible responses)

28

29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: How about from the
30 agencies, Federal or State? Taqulik.

31

32 MS. HEPA: This is Taqulik Hepa, North Slope
33 Borough Division of Wildlife Management. This brings up a
34 good point because when I went to the Federal Subsistence
35 Board meeting in Anchorage last May and you know how they
36 decided to change things, like, okay, we'll talk about it and
37 then vote on it really fast. They didn't announce that and I
38 almost missed my opportunity to give testimony and I had
39 traveled to Anchorage, in particular, to give testimony. And
40 thinking that they would do testimony later and then vote on
41 it later, they decided to do that fast show thing and I
42 almost missed my opportunity to give testimony and I was
43 lucky that I had come in early that morning to -- just to
44 watch to see how the Federal Board works, so the same
45 concern, people might be here tomorrow to give testimony or
46 to give input on the proposals that might be discussed
47 tomorrow. So it's a reality that might happen to miss.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Taqulik.
50 Hearing the Council and the Borough and also hearing staff

1 members, they got some good points, on the rest of the
2 schedule. There were plans of working group meetings before
3 we discuss Proposal 63, maybe I want to hear from Steve on
4 that or see if the other working group members wanted to get
5 together either tonight before we discuss Proposal 63 and
6 have that opportunity as a working group. The Wildlife
7 Department or the Borough staff has asked me. I know our
8 working group dealt with mostly the Harvest Plan and the
9 working group haven't discussed the proposal like the State
10 proposal. I don't know, the working group was involved in
11 its implementation or the final results of that new State
12 regulation, whether the working group played a part in that
13 and this Proposal 63, I'd like to open that up for discussion
14 before we get into proposals.

15

16 So I think there were -- Steve, did you hear anything
17 from the working group on your request to discuss this
18 Proposal 63?

19

20 MR. ULVI: Mr. Chairman, Steve Ulvi from
21 Gates of the Arctic National Park. No, I didn't. But I
22 think that would be highly appropriate if most of the members
23 are here anyway, that we have an opportunity to sit as a
24 group and discuss Proposal 63 and any other thoughts people
25 have and then the Regional Council can reconvene or take that
26 up afterwards, but I hadn't heard anything.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, I think maybe not in
29 this forum. If the working group can work something out,
30 maybe either during break or something, but this is -- I
31 think this is an important proposal, 63. It is a workable
32 solution -- or there's some workable solutions to submit the
33 proposal amended.

34

35 So with that I'm going to request a recess until the
36 morning at 9:00 o'clock to give the opportunity in case the
37 working group wants to meet this evening. If not, it'll
38 provide the opportunity, like the other Council members were
39 saying, that there may be public out there that's waiting for
40 the morning or the next day to discuss the proposal.

41

42 So with that, I want to thank the Federal and State
43 agencies for their reports this afternoon. The only one
44 follow-up I see, just a reminder, August proposals for the
45 Board of Game proposals, that might have to come for that.

46

47 And with that, what's the wish of the Council? Is
48 there anything else? Any other reports or comments to come
49 before the Council at this time?

50

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1 (No audible responses)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Federal or State agencies,
4 before we take a recess, any comments?

5

6 (No audible responses)

7

8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. I want to thank
9 you. Well reconvene at 9:00 in the morning to go over the
10 proposals. I know that we only have about an hour, an hour
11 and a half. Donna, we wanted to provide opportunity for the
12 working group to meet and discuss and that's what the working
13 group wants to do.

14

15 So we stand in recess until 9:00 o'clock.

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (MEETING RECESSED)

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
4) ss.
5 STATE OF ALASKA)
6

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
8 State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby
9 certify:
10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 104
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of VOLUME I,
13 NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL COUNCIL PUBLIC
14 MEETING, taken electronically by David Haynes on the 23rd day
15 of February, 1999, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m.
16 at the Inupiat Heritage Center in Barrow, Alaska;
17

18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
19 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by me
20 to the best of my knowledge and ability;
21

22 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
23 interested in any way in this action.
24

25 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 28th day of
26 February, 1999.
27
28
29
30

31 _____
32 Joseph P. Kolasinski
33 Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00